THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 1031. LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 31, 1847. PRICE FOURPENCE Stamped Edition, 5d.

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LIVERPOOL ACADEMY, 1847.—WORKS of ART intended for the ensuing EXHIBITION of the LIVERPOOL ACADEMY, will be received by Mr. Green, 14, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital, London, until the 12th of August next, from those Artists to whom the Academy's Circular has been sent.

WM. GAWIN HERDMAN, Secretary.

THE SOCIETY OF ARTS, ADELPHI, LONDON.

President.—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF BRITISH ART TO BE FORMED BY PUBLIC VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

The SOCIETY OF ARTS propose to assist in the formation of a NATIONAL GALLERY OF BRITISH ART, by means of PUBLIC VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, and to obtain these contributions as well from an Annual Exhibition as from Subscriptions.

The Exhibition will consist of the pictures of some ONE eminent LIVING artist, of his studies and sketches, and of engravings from his pictures.

The funds to be thus raised will be applied, firstly, in giving the artist whose works are exhibited a commission for a picture, and secondly, in the purchase of pictures already painted. These pictures will be presented from time to time to the National Gallery, and thus, together with the works of British Artists already the property of the Nation, help to form a Gallery which shall worthily represent British Art.

The charges for admission to the Exhibition will be graduated, so as to enable all classes to share in the gratification of contributing to the formation of a National Gallery of the works of their own countrymen.

It is proposed that an etching shall be made of the picture painted.

Donors of 20*l.* and upwards will enjoy for life all the privileges of Subscribers. Annual Subscribers of 2*l.* and upwards will be entitled to all the privileges of the Exhibition and will receive a proof impression of the etching: those of 1*l.* and upwards will have a free admission to the Exhibition during the season, and an impression of the etching, and the names of both classes of Subscribers will be registered as the donors of the picture: Subscribers of 5*s.* will be entitled to an admission to the Exhibition and a catalogue of the Exhibition, of a descriptive and historical character.

It was hoped that the first Exhibition would take place in the present year (1847), but this has been found to be impracticable. Preparations are now in progress for exhibiting the paintings and sketches of Mr. Mulready, R.A., in June 1848.

Subscribers' names will be received at the Society's Rooms, Johnstreet, Adelphi, also by the Collector, Mr. Binyon, and by the Members of the Fine Arts Committee.

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Mr. Harvey will leave London for Geneva, with the Pupils under his charge, at the end of September.

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EDUCATION IN PARIS.—Miss GRANT is at present in London, and intends returning to Paris in the course of a few weeks. She will be happy to take under her charge a few YOUNG LADIES whose friends wish to afford them an opportunity of acquiring (in addition to a good general education and the usual accomplishments) a thorough knowledge of the French and German Languages in their purest form, and a familiar acquaintance with their best authors. She attains this object by the assistance of highly accomplished ladies, natives of the respective countries.—Miss GRANT's Address in town is No. 3, Pleasant-row, York-terrace, Regent's Park.

MUSICAL UNION, JULY 24, 1847.—Resolved, That the Thanks of the Committee be tendered to Mr. ELLA, for the ability and judgment with which he directed the performances at the Musical Union during the past season.

(Signed) FALMOUTH (Chairman), A. P. Upton, G. Cadogan, Saltoun, G. Clerk, J. Clerk, R. B. Phillips, A. F. Barnard, C. Staniforth, A. C. Legge, John Campbell, S. Shelle, L. Parsons.

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For considerably more than a century past the provinces of south-eastern Europe have been the battle-ground of rival creeds and hostile races. Between the Sclavonian Christians on the one hand and the Ottoman Mohammedans on the other a contest has been carried on, which, from its particular nature and causes, is almost without parallel in the historical period. Since the times of the American and French revolutions and the awakening of the free intellectual and political life of the western nations of Europe, the inherent and indestructible antagonism which exists between the dominant caste and creed in the great masses of the population in European Turkey has been rapidly and potentially developed. That contest, although progressive and pointing to a sure termination, is as yet far from being concluded. The Turks have always been regarded by the Christian inhabitants of the East as temporary intruders in the countries west of the Dardanelles:—they have never taken deep root in the soil; and if left to themselves would long ago have practically replied to the question often propounded in the divan,—"Is there not room to build mosques in Asia?"—by a return towards their original settlements.

Unlike the northern conquerors of the Western Empire, the Ottomans did not adopt the feudal principle. They left the land in the possession of the original proprietors—subject only to certain taxes for the support of the government and the maintenance of the military vassals. The soldiers, being all Mohammedans, were considered a superior order;—and the meanest of them could claim and extort personal services from the most wealthy and intelligent of the Christian rajas. An inferior population is, thus, absolutely requisite to the working of the Turkish military system; and hence, after the first fiery zeal of conquest and conversion had abated, few systematic or continuous attempts were made by the conquerors to proselytize the conquered. Nor did the Ulemas of the faith consider this apathy as reprehensible:—the single text of the Koran "Thou wilt not find out any means of enlightening him whom God delivers over to error" was their warranty for pursuing a policy dictated in the first instance by political necessities. Thus, the *land* and their *religion* were both left to the Christians—the first perpetuating the natural love of country and of their national traditions, the other connecting them with the common sympathies of Christendom. These two elements of renovation have become powerfully manifested during the present century. Immense fragments have been torn away from the Ottoman empire—Greece and the Ionian Islands have become independent Christian states. Moldavia and Wallachia have acquired the right of self-government under princes of their own race and creed. Bosnia and Bulgaria have acquired some national rights:—and Servia has bravely won a separate acknowledgment for itself in the congress of nations.

Wallachia, Bulgaria, Servia, and Bosnia serve geographically to separate the two hostile empires of Austria and Turkey; but in their conflicts with the Mussulman power they have abstained from inviting their Christian brethren across the Danube or the Carpathians. They have rather inclined to the more distant but congenial friendship of the Russians. The peculiar distribution of races in the south-eastern corner of Europe exercises an important influence upon the developement of political ideas and the progress of civilization in those regions. Before the invasion of the Magyars, the whole of the vast countries lying between the Balkan and the Baltic were inhabited by Sclavonian tribes; having a common type of organization and, with slight variations, a common language. The settlement of the warlike Magyars in the great plains of Hungary had the effect of cutting off the communications between the two great branches of the Sclavonian family—those dwelling in the lands south of the Danube and those in the countries north of the western Carpathian mountains. The Sclavonians, as a race, are probably as hostile to the Magyars as they are to the Ottomans. They severally belong, too, to rival sections of the Christian church:—the Hungarians being Lutheran and Catholic, the Servians and the people of the other Danubian states adhering to the ancient ritual of the Eastern Empire. These two facts explain the ease with which Russia obtains influence amongst them, and the evident impossibility of Austria dividing that influence with the Czar.

The narratives of the struggles of all these kindred states for emancipation from the Ottoman yoke and faith are peculiarly interesting—that of the Servians is pre-eminently so. Their primitive mode of life and the mountainous character of their country having preserved them from the contagion of foreign ideas, they retain—according to the highest authorities, Maciejowski, Krasinski, and other eminent Sclavonian scholars—in their institutions and systems of laws and customs the purest forms of Sclavonic nationality; and therefore furnish a clue, more or less certain, to the future developement of the numerous and advancing branches of that great race—now rapidly passing into uniformity of institutional type, and tending towards unity of political existence.

Servia—or more properly Sirbia, the country of the Sirbs—after a brief but brilliant era of supremacy in the fourteenth century under Stephen Dushan, during which it was a terror to the Byzantine emperors, gradually sank into political insignificance; and when the Turks invaded Europe, fell, with the neighbouring nations, under the shadow of the Crescent. The inhabitants retained, however, according to the usual system of their conquerors, the soil and their national creed. Their military masters—the Spahis, a class in many respects similar to the feudal knights of the Middle Ages, except that the *soil* was not held in fee by the former, but only a *rental* or tithe, regulated according to the value of the produce—resided in the towns and fortresses; into which the rural population never ventured except when compelled by business. And so the two peoples remained distinct and apart. These Spahis were bound, like the feudal barons, to arm at the call of the monarch, and remain in the field, equipped and maintained at their own charge, so long as the war lasted or the Sultan's pleasure required. Of these self-supported warriors there were 132,000. The office of the Spahis in process of time became hereditary; and in general the district which was assigned to each for his support compounded for its fluctuating liability by the payment of a fixed annual rental. Yet the land remained the property of the cultivator. The Spahis had no legal control over it—could not eject a tenant or prevent one from removing and settling elsewhere. All they could demand was the payment of the regular and fixed stipend.

The manner of life and the social institutions of the Servians are of the most primitive character. As we have said, they live little in towns or cities. They gather in villages or communities;—a description of one of which will serve for all:—

"The villages of Servia stretch far up into the gorges of the mountains, into the valleys formed by the rivers and streams, or into the depths of the forests. Sometimes, when consisting of forty or fifty houses, they spread over a space as extensive as that occupied by Vienna and its suburbs. The dwellings are isolated, at a distance one from another, and each contains within itself a separate community. The real house is a room enclosed by loam walls, and covered with the dry bark of the lime, having the hearth in the centre. Around this room chambers are constructed—Clijet or Wajat—often fitted up with polished boards, but without any fire-places. The house ostensibly belongs to the father and mother of the family; to whose use a separate sleeping-room is sometimes appropriated. The chambers are for the younger married people. All the members of the family constitute but one household; they work and eat together, and in the winter evenings assemble around the fire. Even when the father dies, his sons, appointing one of their brothers, the best qualified amongst them, as master of the house (Stargeshina), remain together until too great an increase of the family renders a separation desirable. It is not unusual for one house to form an entire street. The household requires but little assistance from strangers. The men raise their own buildings; construct, in their rude manner, their ploughs and waggons; prepare the yokes of their draught oxen; hoop their casks; and manufacture their shoes from rough leather. Their other clothing is prepared by the women; who spin wool and flax weave linen and woollen cloth, and understand the art of dycing with madder. Their land yields the food they require; so that salt is perhaps the only article they find it necessary to purchase. The mechanics most in request by the villages are smiths, to make their tools. A mill belongs to several houses conjointly, and each house has its day for using it. These family households, supplying all their own wants, and shut up each within itself—a state of things which was continued under the Turks, because the taxes were chiefly levied upon the households — formed the basis of Servian nationality."

The custom—prevalent in all the primitive Sclavonian nations, ignorance of which has led more than one western historian into false genealogy of Polish and Russian lines—of men entering into the bonds of "Brotherhood" is still maintained in Servia.—

"Persons unite with one another 'in the name of God and St. John,' for mutual fidelity and aid during their whole lives. A man, it is considered, will make the safest selection for his 'brother,' in choosing one of whom he may at some time have dreamed that he had solicited assistance in some case of need. The allied designate themselves 'Brothers in God,' 'Brothers by choice,' *Pobratimi*. No ecclesiastical benediction is considered necessary for constituting this bond in Servia Proper. In Altorshowa and Negotin, it is customary to renew the turf on graves on the morning of the second Monday after Easter; and on the afternoon of that day the young people assemble and twist green garlands: youths, each one with another, and maidens also, in the same manner, then entered into this alliance, whilst kissing through their garlands, which are afterwards exchanged. This first bond, however—they being yet quite young—lasts only to the succeeding year: it is not yet 'brotherhood and sisterhood' for ever; only an initiatory preparation. On the following Easter Monday, by which time they have become better acquainted, they either confirm their original choice or make a new election. This union concerns only the persons by whom it is formed; marriage is, on the contrary, regarded as an affair of interest to the whole family. The fathers of two houses meet, and settle the matter together; exchanging presents, which sometimes amount to a considerable value. Thus, by a sort of purchase, is so useful a member of the household as a grown-up maiden surrendered by one to another. Her brother delivers the bride to the solemn procession which comes to conduct her to her new abode;

and there she is received by the sister, or sister-in-law, of the bridegroom. She dresses a child, touches with a distaff the walls which are so often to see her occupied with this implement, and carries bread, wine, and water, up to the table which it will become her daily duty to prepare: with these symbolical ceremonies she enters into the new community. Her mouth is sealed by a piece of sugar, to denote that she should utter little, and only what is good. As yet she is only a stranger; and for a whole year she is termed the 'betrothed.' By an assumption of continued bashfulness, prescribed by custom, she keeps apart, even from her husband. In the presence of others she scarcely converses with him; much less would a playful phrase be permitted from her lips. It is only when years have passed, and she has become the mother of grown-up children, that she in reality finds herself on an equality with other members of the family into which she has entered."

Perhaps the best account of the manners and customs of the ancient Sclavonians might still be obtained by diligent inquiry and observation in Servia. The actual authority of the central government was exercised over the Christian peasants of Servia by the Pacha of Belgrade: and the military revolutions which took place in that powerful fortress had a decisive influence on the movements that led to their emancipation. It is matter of general history that of all the bodies of Janizaries which opposed the projected reform of Sultan Selim III. those of Belgrade were the most violent and formidable. The Janizaries had fallen into the position of the legions of the Lower Empire—they had become dangerous only to their own employers. Those of Belgrade were especially so. Their Agas assumed the name of Dahis—after the example of the Deys of Algiers and Tripoli—controlled the legally appointed Pachas—and exercised the most lawless authority not only over the Christian subjects but also over the Spahis. The dominion established by the Mamelukes in Egypt had set them a dangerous example,—which they were not slow to follow. It is known that Joseph II. of Austria preferred entering into an arrangement with the Agas rather than with the Pachas—a proof that even then they had acquired a virtual independence. A complete sovereignty was the ultimate aim of those ambitious commanders.

Selim III. sent Ebu Bekir as Pacha to Belgrade; furnished with a firman commanding the Janizaries to quit the fortress and the entire pachalic,—a decree which it was not considered safe to publish until their formidable leader had been removed by assassination. It was then executed. Supported by the notorious rebel prisoner, Oglou, they soon, however returned; and took terrible vengeance upon those who had expelled them, and upon the surrounding country. The Dahis grew more and more tyrannical:—and when the Servians dared to complain to the Porte, they were so incensed that they determined to march into the villages and extirpate all who were likely to oppose their licentiousness. This work of blood was begun in February 1804. For a short time it proceeded, and some of the principal men were cut off: but human endurance has its limit—and the peaceful peasants were compelled to revolt.

From the very fall of Constantinople the mountain ranges of European Turkey had sheltered a race of freebooters, whom the government had never been able to extirpate:—free spirits who repaid the tyranny of the Ottomans in their own way. In Greece these men were well known as Palikares—in Servia they were called Heyduks. They belonged to the country; and were connected with and friendly towards the peasants, who afforded them shelter in their houses during the severity of winter. They infested the mountains, roads and passes; and levied heavy dues upon wealthy travellers, who were, of course, principally Turks. In these free companies the spirit of independence was kept alive; and when the time for the emancipation of their country arrived these bold mountaineers were prepared to take the dangerous initiative in the enterprise. The two most distinguished men in the annals of the Servian revolution had both been Heyduks—Zrni, or as the Turks called him Kara George, and Weliko,—the Agamemnon and Achilles of as primitive a race as that celebrated by Homer. The character of Kara George is interesting in itself, not only as strikingly original and as a type to some extent of that of his race, but also as being that of the founder of a dynasty which may hereafter play a decisive part in the politics of the East. The course of his life and the points of his character are thus briefly indicated by Ranke:—

"George Petrowitsch, called Kara, or *Zrni*, the *black*, was born between the years 1760 and 1770, in the village of Wischewzi, in the district of Kragujewaz. He was the son of a peasant named Petroni; and in his early youth he went with his parents higher up into the mountain to Topola. In the very first commotion of the country—which was in the year 1787, when an invasion by the Austrians was expected—he took a part that decided the character of his future life. He saw himself compelled to flee; and not wishing to leave his father behind, amongst the Turks, he took him also, with all his moveable property and cattle. Thus he proceeded towards the Save, but the nearer they approached that river, the more alarmed became his father, who, from the first, would have preferred surrendering, as many others had done, and often advised him to return. Once again, and in the most urgent manner, when they already beheld the Save before them, 'Let us humble ourselves,' the old man said, 'and we shall obtain pardon. Do not go to Germany, my son: as surely as my bread may prosper thee, do not go.' But George remained inexorable. His father was at last equally resolved: 'Go, then, over alone,' he said: 'I remain in this country.' 'How!' replied Kara George, 'shall I live to see thee slowly tortured to death by the Turks? It is better that I should kill thee myself on the spot!' Then seizing a pistol, he instantly shot his father, and ordered one of his companions to give the death-blow to the old man, who was writhing in agony. In the next village, Kara said to the people, 'Get the old man who lies yonder buried for me, and drink also for his soul at a funeral feast.' For that purpose he made them a present of the cattle which he had with him, and then crossed the Save. This deed, which was the first indication of his character, threw him out of the common course. He returned to his own district, with the rank of sergeant, in the corps of volunteers; but, believing himself unjustly passed over at a distribution of medals, he retired into the mountains as a Heyduc. However, he became reconciled in this matter with his colonel, Mihaljewitsch; went with him, after the peace, to Austria; and was made 'forest-keeper' in the cloister of Kruschedol. But he did not rest satisfied in Austria; and as, under Hadschi Mustafa, he had nothing to fear in Servia, he returned thither, and from that time followed his business—that of a dealer in swine. The outrages of the Dahis hurried him into the movements in which he was destined to perform so important a part. Kara George was a very extraordinary man. He would sit for days together without uttering a word, biting his nails. At times, when addressed, he would turn his head aside and not answer. When he had taken wine, he became talkative; and if in a cheerful mood, he would perhaps lead off a Kolo-dance. Splendour and magnificence he despised. In the days of his greatest success, he was always seen in his old blue trowsers, in his worn-out short pelt, and his well-known black cap. His daughter, even whilst her father was in the exercise of princely authority, was seen to carry her water-vessel, like other girls in the village. Yet, strange to say, he was not insensible to the charms of gold. In Topola, he might have been taken for a peasant. With his Momkes, he would clear a piece of forest land, or conduct water to a mill; and then they would fish together in the brook Jasenitza. He ploughed and tilled the ground; and spoiled the insignia of the Russian Order with which he had been decorated, whilst putting a hoop on a cask. It was in battle only that he appeared a warrior. When the Servians saw him approach surrounded by his Momkes, they took fresh courage. Of lofty stature, spare, and broad-shouldered, his face seamed by a large scar, and enlivened with sparkling deep-set eyes, he could not fail to be instantly recognised. He would spring from his horse, for he preferred fighting on foot; and though his right hand had been disabled from a wound received when a Heyduc, he contrived to use his rifle most skilfully. Wherever he appeared, the Turks became panic-stricken; for victory was believed to be invariably his companion."

A very characteristic anecdote is related of him when a boy—which may be added to the above. Being commanded by a Turk to stand out of the way if he did not wish to have his brains blown out, he coolly drew forth his pistols and shot the Mussulman dead.

On the advance of the murderous bands of Dahis into the country, the Servians—

"determined not to wait till they should have to suffer death, chained by the hangmen and grooms of the Dahis, but to seek it boldly as free men. They were joined by numbers: all men who counted it a sin to die without taking an enemy with them. Their unanimous determination was, to sell life for life. The Heyducs also eagerly joined them. The most noted of these were Glawasch and Weliko. Weliko had served during the winter as herdsman, and as such had taken a wife. Now he resumed his arms and his Heyduc's dress. 'Woe is me!' exclaimed his wife, as she saw him thus equipped, 'I have married a robber!' He consoled her by replying that, 'now every man had become a robber,' and departed to seek his companions. A numerous and resolute band of Heyducs and fugitives, at the commencement of hostilities, attacked the village of Sibnitza, in the district of Belgrade, of which Katisch and Tscharapitsch were natives. They fired the house of the Subascha, killed and plundered the Turks whom they found, and carried off with them all the Servians capable of bearing arms. Couriers were despatched in all directions; every one who could carry a gun was ordered to join one of the armed bands; the houses of the Subasches were to be destroyed; the women and children were to be brought into the barricades on the mountains. And this was done. Any man who was unwilling to join them was forcibly compelled. At this news, the country on the further side of the Kolubara also rose. Jacob Nenadowitsch—of whom a song records that his brother Alexa had in his dying moments charged him to revenge his death—most distinguished himself. Luke Lasarewitsch, brother of Ranko, regardless that he was a priest and wore a beard, took up arms. Of the Heyducs in this district none was so dreaded as Kjurtschia. He was a most expert marksman. The first shot which he had ever fired hit the target: a feat which many a Turk had fruitlessly essayed. For this superiority, the Turks conceived such a hatred against him, that they attempted to kill him and obliged him to flee into the mountains. Now he came down, and carried the standard before Jacob, who for the first time took the field."

Simultaneously the whole population was in arms. The Turks were soon chased out of the country—or forced to seek a temporary refuge in the fortified places. Kara George was elected commander-in-chief. The above passage introduces an anecdote of Weliko:—we may add the following as its sequel. When the deliverance of Servia was in a great measure effected, the restless Heyduk—

"begged only for a banner, and general permission to assemble volunteers: 'he required nothing else,' he said, 'to conquer back his native country, Zrnareka.' Aware that he would not remain quiet unless his request was granted, the Servians gave him all he asked. He very soon made himself heard of. Although the force which he brought together at

first was small, he ventured to besiege a Beg in Podgoraz: by piling up one upon another a number of barrels filled with straw, and then setting them on fire, so that the flames reached up to the fort, he forced him to surrender. He gave the Beg safe-conduct to Widdin; but first exchanged dresses and horses with him, and took from him all the money in his possession. He then assembled his men; and though himself a commander of inferior rank, he appointed standard-bearers, Buljukbaschas, and even a Bimbascha. One half of the booty he distributed, the other he sent to Belgrade; and as, instead of demanding money, like others, he contributed some, his presumption was allowed to pass unrebuked. It was sufficient if he succeeded in holding his ground. When the Turks from Widdin came against him, with a force incomparably superior to his own, he was not in any degree daunted. He was able, by a bold stroke, to keep them off. During the night, he, with his Momkes, stole his way into the midst of their camp; calling out in Turkish—'Weliko is here and conquering;' at the same instant he attacked the half-awakened and terrified soldiers, and drove them before him all in different directions. Such exploits he considered to be sufficient grounds for investing himself with a legitimate authority; and from that time he ruled as Gospodar at Zmareka."

Of course, the Turks made many attempts to recover their lost ascendancy,—and with various fortunes. The Servians under their indomitable chiefs resisted overwhelming numbers. In these wars Weliko divided the glory with Kara George himself;—who was, however, intellectually far his superior. The death of the former was characteristic alike of the man and of the country. In 1813 the Ottomans invaded the country with a large force; and Weliko prepared to resist their passage. Whilst awaiting the appearance of the enemy he scoured the country round.—

"He drove many thousand head of cattle into his citadel of Negotin, and ventured as far as the gates of Widdin; where he was seen, on his Arabian steed, in the plain before the fortress. Near Bukowtscha he put to flight the first Turkish troops which appeared on the Timok. But when the Turks arrived 18,000 strong, he was obliged to shut himself up in Negotin. It was then his delight to make sallies, day after day, and night after night; and thus to keep the besiegers constantly in a state of alarm. Compared with the losses which he caused them, his own were trivial: though he lost better soldiers, and each diminution of his numbers could not but be seriously felt. At last both parties were obliged to solicit aid—the Turks, from the Grand Vizier; and Weliko, from Kara George and the Senate. The Turks were not long unassisted. Retschep Aga, the Wallachian Prince Karadschia, and the Grand Vizier himself led on a reinforcement. They made their way, under cover of the night, and by mining, nearer and nearer to the fortifications. They battered down with their cannon one tower of Negotin after another; and lastly the highest, which was the residence of Weliko himself. Still he lost not his courage; but went down and lived in the vault. Everything, of lead or tin, which could be found in the place he melted into balls; not excepting even spoons and lamps; and one day, when all metal else was exhausted, he ordered his men to load their guns with pieces of money instead of bullets, and thus successfully kept off the enemy. If he could but have received assistance! On receiving Weliko's request for aid, Kara George, whose corps of reserve had never been brought into a state of efficiency, sent to Mladen. But Mladen's answer was:—'He may help himself! *His* praise is sung to him, at his table, by ten singers; *mine* is not: let him then keep his ground—the hero!' The Senate—to whom Weliko had written, in the most severe terms, saying that, 'at Christmas he would inquire in what manner the country was governed!'—at length sent a vessel to him with ammunition: but it arrived too late. One morning as Weliko, according to custom, was going his rounds, and just when ordering the repair of a redoubt which had been damaged by the enemy, he was recognised—for the combatants were very near to each other—by a Turkish artilleryman, who aimed at him. The aim was true. Uttering the words—'Stand firm!' [*Drshte se!*] Weliko fell to the ground: his body lay torn asunder!"

The campaign thus inauspiciously begun ended most disastrously for Servia. The Turks advanced irresistibly. Smederewo and Belgrade submitted at their approach;—and Kara George was compelled to fly into Austria. This defection rendered the designs of Milosch Obrenowitsch to supersede the commander as the acknowledged leader of the Servians feasible: and his pretensions were favoured by the Porte,—whose tool he in a great measure became. Subsequently, when Kara George returned secretly to Servia for the purpose of organizing a new insurrection, Milosch caused him to be treacherously assassinated; and continued to rule under Turkish supervision, in his stead. Having, however, rendered himself obnoxious to the people by his tyrannies and monopolies, a constitutional movement in 1838 compelled him to abdicate and retire into exile. His imbecile son succeeded him; and was treated by the great senators much as King John was by the barons. The poor youth died soon after his elevation. Another son of Milosch succeeded:—his reign was short. In 1842 a popular revolution hurled him from the seat of power:—he, also, retired into Austria. The people now turned their eyes to the son of their great hero and deliverer, Kara George:—and Alexander Georgewitsch, whose birth in the midst of the glorious campaign of 1806 connected him with some of their proudest recollections, was *elected* as their prince. He still reigns.

Seduced by the importance of the subject, we have treated the matter at such length that we must leave our extracts to vouch for the degree of excellence to be assigned to the manner. The book is opportune and important; and will be welcome to every student of history and politics.

Gisella. By the Author of 'Second Love.' 3 vols. Bentley.

THIS romance contains much that is singularly interesting, because it is new and—what is more to the purpose—true. There is no mistaking a copy "from the life" when it is life-like; and thus, though we have not, like *Iachimo*, taken notes enabling us to swear to the "arras and the pictures" of Hungarian monasteries and palaces—though we know not by heart the rocks and rapids, the fortresses and castles of the Danube down to Peterwardein—we dare make an *affidavit* to the accuracy of the scenes and costumes of 'Gisella,' without fear of being sent out of court with "damages and costs" as parties who had sworn to a falsity. Here, to warrant our confidence is, "The façade of a Greek monastery at festival time":—

"The rude Byzantine architecture of the greater part of the pile gave evidence that the monastery was of ancient construction, and one of the very few that had escaped the devastating hands of the Turks, during the period of their domination in this part of the country. The interior spaces of the coarse arches, with which the flatness of the walls was relieved, were adorned with richly coloured fresco paintings of Saints and scriptural subjects, the original brilliancy of which, however, had been faded by time, although probably retouched at different periods. Similar paintings were visible on every part of the building, where they could be introduced; and generally speaking, fresco colouring had been lavishly bestowed over the whole face of the exterior. In spite of the air of heaviness bestowed by the rough architecture, the deep round-arched windows, so scanty in number in proportion to the length of the façade, and the crushed and weighty look of the large low portal, there was, however, an undeniable stamp of bizarre and wild beauty in the general appearance of the monastery which gave a species of romantic charm to the whole scene. Not far from this large pile of building stood a small chapel, of a far more modern date, facing the portal of the monastery, which opened on the side of the building forming the right-hand façade, as the stranger advanced across the sward. A great part of this chapel was constructed, bridge fashion, over a stream, which skirting the bank of the wooded slope to the right, rushed on its way down towards the entrance of the secluded basin, and finally escaped down the ravine by which the traveller had mounted, in small cataracts. Upon nearer approach, it might be remarked, by the painting which crowned the doorway, that this place of worship was dedicated to St. George. * * The day had not long fully broken over the monastery sward, when already knots of peasants emerged from the opening of the ravine, which terminated upon the little upland valley. Swarthy men, in the full white shirt sleeves, spreading white trousers, and hanging jackets of the attire of the country, with their black mane-like hair streaming from beneath their broad-brimmed hats, and mingling with their long black mustachios, flung themselves down upon the grassy banks, or stooping over the clear rivulet, drew themselves water in the circular vessels formed by the upturned brims of their hats, to refresh themselves after their ascent. Peasants' wives, with gaily embroidered many-coloured aprons over their white dresses, and white kerchiefs fastened, somewhat Italian wise, over their dark heads, scolded the noisy rebellious urchins they dragged by their hands, called to their husbands, chattered to their companions, and then, suddenly forgetting the Martha in the would-be Mary, flung themselves down, in thick and clustering groups, at the foot of a tall cross, placed near the entrance of the sward, and were lost in muttered prayer. Young girls, their faces smeared with holiday paint, as is the custom of these mountain maids, their necks adorned with necklaces of beads, or coins of gold or silver, clung to each other's arms, tittering and casting sly looks, or even venting a piece of banter, on the unmarried youths who lingered in close knot behind in their best holiday attire. Anon the crowd increased; and, amidst fresh swarms of pedestrians, emerged, on the little plain, long wooden carts of the rudest, simplest manufacture, drawn by large white Hungarian oxen, with their gigantically branching horns, whose nostrils, streaming with long flakes of foam, and struggling, rolling steps, showed how they had toiled up the steep ascent, and filled with troops of women and children, bearing waving branches of larch or of acacia in their hands, and singing, at the very top of their voices, and in the wildest confusion, village ditties, the mournful notes of which seemed better adapted to religious hymns, or hymns the words of which were better suited to a village love-ditty. Garlands of wild flowers hung in profusion over the rough planks of these rude vehicles; and ever and anon sat on the oxen's incommodious shoulders a sturdy urchin-boy, looking like a gipsy Bacchus, who had twined long wreaths of wild vine, or clematis, or others of the many luxuriant clustering plants of a rich southern clime, around the brawny necks of the patient beasts. Presently issued forth, with quicker pace, the lighter peasant cart, drawn by three or four horses, the richer owner of which, adroitly perched on the front bar of wood, cracked his long whip in the air, until the woods and monastery walls re-echoed, as with a discharge of loud artillery, and then, shaking back his black locks, turned, with a grin upon his swarthy face, to laugh, with the group of females behind, upon his great exploit. In a short space of time, all was in a state of swarming bustle, that it might have done old Gabor's busy heart good to see. Provisions were untied from sundry bundles, and spread upon the grass. Stone flasks were produced, unscathed, by a miracle, as it would appear, from the jolting of the vehicles. Famished old women grouped themselves around the stores to despatch their breakfasts. Carts, great and small, were stowed away into the nooks and corners of the little valley. Bundles of straw were unbound, and littered down behind the temporary shops and booths, as provisionary stabling, *al fresco*, for oxen and horses. Little self-appointed ostlers were whipping, and pushing, and tying to trunks of trees, and swearing very huge Illyrian oaths, that would have been huge and startling in much larger mouths; and bigger men were looking on, and puffing into the clear air clouds of smoke big as themselves, which

rolled from under their thick mustachios, out of short pipes, like incense-offerings to the deity of tobacco. * * Women, who were not praying at the cross, were chattering shrilly, or correcting lesser children, who would fain have been doing like the larger ones, or already chaffering over tempting wares; and jaunty youths were squeezing hands, willing, if not fair or soft, and approaching smart, impudent-looking, upcurled mustachios towards painted cheeks, the natural red of which blushed through that ill-advised holiday covering; and now and then a song burst forth from a manly throat, and was caught up by other voices, and swelled into a chorus; and there was noise and confusion and clamour; and were there any purpose of religious festival in this holiday fair, no stranger could scarcely have conceived it. But soon deeper and more mournful tones of song came rolling on the air from the ascending path below, and pealed even above the clamour, like warning voices from the bowels of the earth. These sounds ceased, then swelled again upon the air, then approached nearer and nearer still, until at last a continuous line of human beings was seen to issue from the pass and enter the valley, and wind along its middle path, like a huge serpent. In front of it was borne a banner, rudely painted, and gilded with the figure of a saint: behind the banner followed two men carrying large crosses of wood: then came, in long array, a troop of pilgrims, each with a wallet slung behind, the majority of them women, the swelled and worn feet of whom, as they bore their heavy shoes or boots in their hands, showed that they had come from afar: again a banner, borne by a tottering old man, closed the weary line. As the mournful hymn from the many voices ceased, the banner-bearer in the front lifted up his voice and chaunted again a stave; and then again the whole chorus of pilgrims burst out in full response. Strange to hear was the mingling of this chaunt with the noisy song of mirth—the contrast of the sounds of religious praise with those of worldly levity—the notes of the hymn struggling in the air with those of the village chorus; until at last the lighter burden was overawed, and hushed into silence by the severer strains, as the crowd formed on either side a central path among it for the passage of the train of pilgrims. They passed on; and again the crowd closed, and formed into its various knots."

Let us place by the side of this the picture of a ruder place of entertainment.—

"The flood of light was broken only, upon the entire plain, by a *Csarda*, or solitary house of entertainment, which skirted the road side. A spectral-looking well, flanked by a tall slim trunk of a tree, which was crossed at top by a horizontal beam, for the purpose of raising the buckets, stood somewhat apart in front of the house; and a stout post, well furnished with iron rings, to which the bridles of the passing wayfarers' horses might be attached, was fixed close by the yawning arched entrance. The whole scene bore some resemblance to that which surrounded the isolated farm-house of the peasant-noble, except that there it was far more arid and desert-like, here brighter, with a widely extending carpet of green turf, and more enlivened by a few gently rising verdant hillocks, and some trees scattered here and there upon the horizon. Nor did the picture want for animation from living objects. To the tall post by the entrance of the *Csarda*, which, built after the fashion of all such Hungarian road-side houses, was a long, low, ground-floor building, with a few narrow, deep-set windows, and a vault-like opening in the middle, that led into the court behind, was tied by his rein a striking-looking horse of light Hungarian breed. In the court-yard, which was surrounded on the three other sides by low mud-built outhouses and stabling buildings, two dirty-looking men, in the usual Hungarian attire, who seemed volunteer hostlers, were engaged in assisting or embarrassing the coachman of a light carriage, from which the horses had been taken out for feeding and temporary repose; while, by a stable door, a third was employed in bestowing his attentions upon another stout steed, which apparently belonged to a second wayfarer. In a projecting covered gallery, which protruded from the eastern gable of the house, on the side nearest the road, and now lay in welcome shade, sat, at a table, two travellers, before whom a tight-made, buxom-looking, bright-eyed damsel, with short dark blue petticoats, bright-red boddice, red leather boots, and dark hair hanging in a broad braid more than half-way down her back, was placing two bottles of wine, and glasses, together with coarse bread, and such savoury messes of mutton and fowl stewed with a variety of vegetables, and well-seasoned with red Hungarian pepper, as the isolated *Csarda* afforded. On a flattened hillock, at a little distance from the same side of the house, was collected a picturesque group of men around a fire, at which some were broiling fish from a neighbouring brook, others superintending the stewing of some dainty Hungarian peasants' dish in a pan over the wood embers—shepherds, probably, from different quarters of the plain, who had assembled at this general spot of rendezvous, for the sake of enjoying their evening repast in common. Although the rays of the sun still dimmed the light of the flame, a column of smoke towered straight into the air, before it floated away in the faint breath of wind; and the wild group of men, who were gathered round it, lying indolently on their sheep-skin cloaks, or squatting on their heels, and exposing their broad tanned backs in the sun, in the intervals between the skirt of the short shirt of the Hungarian shepherd, which never descends fully to the waist, and the leather belt, which tightly binds the waistband of the spreading white trowsers, might almost have been supposed, by a fantastic imagination, to be engaged in some mysterious druidical rite. Their long dark locks, which, if not braided in a long tail behind, flowed in 'most admired disorder' from beneath their broad, upturned hats, or tall caps of black wool, added to the wildness of their appearance. Among the group of men squatted also one or two little boys, with a gravity as characteristic as that of their elders, and with spurs as long upon their heavy little boots, ingeniously contriving, in their posture, to avoid all injury to their nether boy from the contact of the aforesaid spurs; while a few large white shepherd dogs guarded such *bundas*, or sheep-skin cloaks, as had been thrown aside, or sat by the circle impatiently waiting their share of the delicate viands in the process of cookery—and these were the younger ones—or lay asleep, coiled up in philosophical indifference—and these were the elder; and at the base of the hillock large white oxen, with horizontally branching horns, of that picturesque breed so peculiar to Hungary, released from their carts, but not from their long wooden yoke, browsed in coupled *tête-à-tête* with more seeming patience and good-will than is often to be found in such compulsory ties, particular when matrimonial. Although rude and savage, the scene was bright and picturesque in the extreme."

It will be seen from the above that 'Gisella' has claims far superior to those of the average romance. Further, its author possesses no small power over incident as well as over scenic description. The ground-work of his tale is the escape to Vienna of a Hungarian lady, whose husband having been "compromised" in conspiracies and political disturbances is suffering the penalty in prison. Chief among the hindrances which beset her is the Archimandrid of the Greek monastery; another portrait, with characteristic variations, of the Wicked Priest who mixes political intrigue with sensual appetite, so well known in Romance—having already figured as Schedoni in Mrs. Radcliffe's 'Italian,' as the Evil Genius in 'The Last Days of Pompeii,' and most recently as the mover of mischief in 'Azeth.' He has, as usual, his victims in the heart-broken Irma and the jealous Irene,—what may be called "his *conscience*" in the idiot child Ilka,—his controller and confidant in the crafty monk Achacius,—his fellow-plotters and his tools. The evolutions of all these figures are arranged with the precision of a practised hand; and though involving no unfamiliar combinations, are so managed as to keep up curiosity and interest to the last;—the wild scenery among which the events of the story take place furnishing a spirited framework and a richly-coloured background. On the side of Virtue and Gisella we have a travelling tinker or Pot-binder, with an everlasting dog—a peasant-count, brother to one of the Archimandrid's victims, who has a double motive in foiling the Priest's purposes—lastly, that being so dear to writers and readers of romance, the heroic and audacious robber-chief, Sobri, of whose exploits we read when we were a boy.—The above specification will assure the reader that there is abundant excitement in 'Gisella'; and satisfy him, too, we think, that he does not meet its author for the last time in the land of Romance. This being the case, we must turn to the latter for a parting word with one in whose career we are interested. As we have said, he manages incident, suspense, climax, and *coup de théâtre* with the skill of a veteran romancer or a modern French play-wright. He will do well, in his future efforts, to study force and concentration of dialogue—particularly in scenes of passion; and, further, to recollect that a catch-word no more makes a character than does a costume. The "*Prodigious!*" of Dominie Samson and the allusions to "provant" of Dugald Dalgetty were but two among the many traits and singularities of those never-to-be-forgotten worthies.

A Treatise on Atmospheric Phenomena. By E. J. Lowe, Esq. Vol. I. Longman & Co.

THE title of this book is an anticipation. The second volume, yet to come, is to be the treatise on atmospheric phenomena: this first is a large collection of such things, arranged under heads—each one described in the words of the person who saw it, whether the author himself or another.

Meteorology and Astronomy stand upon the same footing in the first instance: but it is soon found that the phenomena of the latter are really cyclical—as to the former, we do not, up to this day, know whether they are cyclical or not. We do not mean merely that the heavenly bodies go round and round:—so far as this description is concerned we might almost make a meteorological parallel, and say that "hail, rain, and shine," tolerably well describe the successive phases of the weather. The cycles of the heavenly bodies are very complicated,—but still they are attainable and attained: some scores of them are to be considered before we can put the moon in her place for a given time. But nothing numerical has been reached in popular meteorology—that is, in the general prediction of the weather and the interpretation of its precedent signs. Certainly not for want of will to find and faith to believe: for vestiges of the old notions of direct planetary influence are abundantly scattered throughout society. That the *change* of the moon from one *quarter* into another is accompanied by change of the weather—or rather that the latter always happens at the former—is as current as ever. Mr. Lowe says: "I have regarded this point for the last four years; and find that there is no ground whatever on which such belief can rest."—And so says every one who has examined the subject.

A great deal has been done within the last fifty years towards that kind of knowledge which must be successfully cultivated before isolated observations of weather phenomena can lead to any theory,—we mean the general laws of climate, wind, temperature, &c. On these we need not enter here. Such labourers as Mr. Lowe on the one hand and Prof. Forbes, for instance, on the other, are in the relative situations of the two surveying parties on the American boundary who lately had to cut their way direct to each other through the woods. They were seventy miles apart when they began; and they hit each other's line within three hundred feet. We hope the meteorological parties may be as successful:—but, as in the other case, they are

not likely to know that they have succeeded till the whole work is nearly done.

In the scientific world the want is well known, both in astronomy and meteorology:—and the cry is for observers, observers, observers! Not merely for noters of curiosities, and casual contributors of rare phenomena to journals,—though these are useful in their way; but for those who will learn to see, learn to state what they see, and attach themselves to continuous watching of some one or more important points. First,—for those who will learn to see, and *dare* to see. Ardent temperaments will supply appearances from their own minds, or colour what they actually do observe in a manner which amounts to the same thing. We have among us something like that disposition which gave to comets the distinct appearance of swords and spears. But the timid dispositions, on the other hand, will shrink from stating what they have really seen, for fear of error or ridicule. When Mr. Baily published his account of the curious appearance which was seen in the annular eclipse of the sun, he found, on searching the records of former instances, much reason to think that the same thing had been often noted, but that the observers had been afraid of saying what they had seen. They thought the world would laugh at them if they said that they had beheld the moon's edge joined to that of the sun by black drops which elongated into threads and broke, as melted pitch or treacle would have done, when the edges of the luminaries had separated a certain distance. An observer who can avoid the two extremes will gain more credit than, if a modest man, he can any way believe to be his due. His reputation is in the hands of those who know his value much better than he can himself. Even a conceited person may not be wrong in his estimate of himself. He may think more highly of his own labours than *he* has any right to do; but others, on premises which he knows nothing about, may verify his conclusion.

Next,—observers are wanted who will learn to state what they see. It is not by any means certain that there will be perfect coincidence even between the accounts of two practised hands in the description of such non-numerical things as atmospheric phenomena. The value of a record is nothing unless we know the language in which it is written:—which we never can unless we are sure that the recorder is familiar with the language of others.

Mr. Lowe is a promising labourer in the field of which we have been speaking. As indices of what he is, and still more of what he will be, we have his evident earnestness in the pursuit—his fearlessness of labour—the avidity with which he collects the accounts of others—the importance which he attaches to giving those accounts in the words of the authors, and to their comparison—and (not least) the almost total victory over the temptation to make his work the vehicle of his own theories as well as of observations. His descriptions are brief, intelligible, abounding in circumstances. Among those to whom he has had recourse for observations not his own are Herschel, Brisbane, Brewster, Lassell, Chevallier, Parry, Sabine, Franklin, &c. &c.:—we take the names by dip after dip into the book, and have perhaps omitted many. This general willingness to communicate to Mr. Lowe shows some opinion of his fitness to be the medium of communication between such men and the public. The book, as it stands, is a good record of undoubted observations. And we think, speaking to the beginner who wants to learn the language of observation, that it would be difficult to find within the same compass so large and accessible a collection of similar phenomena described by different men.

The following extract from Mr. Lowe's conclusion may amuse our readers;—who are no doubt more or less weatherwise, every one of them.—

"It has been generally observed by meteorologists of the present day, that rain is indicated when the sun rises pale and sparkling and soon becomes covered with clouds—when it rises among ruddy clouds—when it sets under a dark cloud—when the edge of the moon is ill-defined—when the moon appears as if seen through a mist—when the stars are not as bright as usual—when the sky is of a deep blue colour—when distant objects are seen clearly and as if near at hand—when sounds from a distance, as the tolling of bells, &c., are heard distinctly—when there is no dew after a hot day—when there has been a superabundant hoar frost—when a cloud increases in size—when a cirrostratus occurs on high as a thin covering through which the sun is visible, and the cumulostratus, as a massive cloud, is at the same time seen on a lower level. And that fair weather may be anticipated when the sun sets red or cloudless—when the edges of the moon are well defined and the horns, best seen on her fourth day, are sharp—when the stars shine brightly—when the smoke rises in the air—and by the web of the spider being thickly woven on the hedges and the pastures. To some extent I place reliance on the above remarks; at least so far as to enable me to affirm that the appearances before mentioned as denoting rain, will, if not followed by rain, almost invariably be succeeded by damp weather. But that which is of most importance is the knowledge of whether the vapours are increasing or decreasing in density; for the same state of the atmosphere is assumed whether they are on the increase or decrease. I think every one who has attended to the state of the atmosphere will agree with me in considering, that the prognostics above alluded to, as indications of rain, will be succeeded by a dense state of the atmosphere, but that it is not absolutely necessary that this state should be heavy enough for rain to fall."

We are satisfied that Mr. Lowe has chosen the field on which he is likely to be successful.

Cousin Pons; or, the Two Musicians—[*Le Cousin Pons; ou les Deux Musiciens*]. By M. H. de Balzac. London, Jeffs.

It really would seem as if one or two among the French novelists—by some heterodox control of "Fate and metaphysical aid"—had purchased the secret of endless fertility: and if not exactly possessing the Philosopher's Stone which turns all it touches into gold, owned that redoubtable faëry purse with one shekel in it which never fails to yield up the precise coin—neither more nor less—however often drawn upon. The variety of adventure, amusement—nay, and of character, too,—in the romances of M. Dumas, has been often noticed by us, of late. We have kept less exact pace with M. de Balzac: and, after having gone through nearly thirty of his novels some years ago, thought ourselves discharged from the task of making further acquaintance with him and them. Last autumn, however, having by chance once taken up his hateful story of 'Cousine Bette' there was no laying it down. The deeds of that ogress, and the misdeeds of Madame Marneffe, were detailed with the minuteness and power which held us so fast in 'Eugenie Grandet' and in 'Un Grand Homme de Province.' Here is a newer tale, little less hateful: but so full of vigour as to assure us that M. de Balzac is not yet "written out."

Our epithet, as applied to 'Cousin Pons,' by no means implies *recommendation* after "the savage and Tartarly" fashion of a certain leading Review, which, once upon a time, by pointing out the flagrant immorality of French fictions, tempted all the curious world to ascertain for itself whether the charge was true or not. There is no mischief in the book, beyond its pervading squalidity of tone. Pons and the German Schmucke are two musicians, who love each other like brothers. The Frenchman has, of the two, the better wit—the better taste; for he is a lover of curiosities and old works of art—the better connexions; since he is "poor relation" to people of wealth and function—the better appetite; and to gratify this, consents to eat dinners at their tables superior to any he could otherwise command, though sauced with their contempt and undisguised weariness. Schmucke has little more than *Amina's* dowry—a good heart; and speaks in a jargon of bad German-French, which becomes nearly as tiresome as the Corporal and his cat in 'Eugene Aram.' All this is commonplace enough; yet not without a certain redeeming attraction in the affection and mutual confidence of these two solitary housemates. It is the mercenary and callous selfishness of every one else in the drama which makes it hateful. His relations maltreat the poor shabby old Smell-feast, or govern him like a baby,—so long as he is strong and able to run at their beck:—his inferiors, discovering that he has amassed treasures, owing to his having begun to collect ere France was seized with the fancy of ruining itself in the *bric-à-brac* shops,—prowl about his deathbed like harpies, with foul or fawning rapacity. Their schemes, the success of the same, and the death of the innocent survivor of the Two Musicians, fill the book—and are set forth, as we have said, with a power which grasped us like a nightmare. The vulgar and ungrateful persons in Crabbe's 'Delay has Danger,' and 'The Brothers,' are beings of Romance,—nay, even Mrs. Gamp herself with her one touch of imagination shines bright—when compared with the mean, unwearied, stony-hearted persons here assembled.

On laying down this story, with others of the same colour by the same author vividly present to us, it is impossible to avoid the question—"Can this be a true picture of any section of French society?" Allowing for a fair amount of artistic *heightening*, the portraiture must still remain coarser than the coarsest interior by Jan Steen—more repulsive than Biard's most repulsive delineation of brutal slavery. Such an expression of Cynicism—to use the word as our neighbours do—does not occur to us, as these tales by Balzac offer. If it be warranted by reality, it is impossible to avoid shuddering as we imagine a time when the spirit may take form more tangible and speak with a voice more potential than it does in the most popular novel. Without hazardous prophecy or prognostic, this Balzac library seems to us, as a sign of the times, infinitely more discouraging than the ravings of Sue's benevolence or the evangelical Pantheism of George Sand.

Memoirs of Viscountess Sundon, Mistress of the Robes to Caroline, Consort of George II. By Mrs. Thomson. 2 vols. Colburn.

Two dull and disappointing volumes;—overlaid with minor materials and recording scarcely a fact of importance from first to last. Mrs. Thomson has discovered, or had put into her hands, a stray bundle of letters addressed to Lady Sundon; and from these has made up a lengthy Memoir of the lady to whom they were addressed. The letters are poor in themselves—being either of mere compliment or minor request; and the facts and illustrations with which they are surrounded are copied from the commonest, and frequently not the most authentic, channels. It is the fault of Mrs. Thomson to overlay her subject. Every back stairs intrigue is made as great as "the Cabal"—every anonymous letter wears the disguise of a "Junius"—and there is reason to suspect that were she to write the life of the Duke, as she has done the Duchess, of Marlborough, every skirmish would be a Battle of Blenheim. There is an absence of what painters call perspective in her composition.

Everything is in the foreground; and when such is the case, a huddled and crowded composition is the necessary result. We are sorry to write thus of Mrs. Thomson: for if not a well read, she is at least a well informed, woman;—and would she write only after due and mature inquiry, might attain a name for historical composition considerably higher than that of the class with whom we have been accustomed, unwillingly, to associate her.

The Viscountess Sundon whose life Mrs. Thomson has undertaken to relate was Charlotte Dyves—daughter of an obscure country gentleman, and wife of Robert Clayton, Esq. of Fulwood, in Lancashire, the manager of the estates of the great Duke of Marlborough during the latter's absence from England. On the accession of George I. the Duchess of Marlborough (Sarah the old Duchess) procured for her friend, through Baron Bothmar's influence, the place of bedchamber woman to the Princess of Wales. Mr. Clayton was advanced at the same time from the inferior situation of a clerk in the Treasury to the more important office of one of the Lords Commissioners. He was a poor, weak person: but his wife was a shrewd, sensible woman, who let no opportunity slip of improving her position. With the Princess she soon became a favourite: and from the time of her appointment to the death of her mistress as Queen—a period of something like three-and-twenty years—she maintained an ascendancy over her mistress and ruled the destinies of the back stairs at St. James's with a low cunning and acuteness of which Sir Robert Walpole is said to have been jealous. In the enthusiasm of her vanity she proposed to Sir Robert Walpole to unite with him, and that they should govern the kingdom together. Walpole bowed (it is his son who tells the story)—begged her patronage—but said he thought nobody fit to govern the kingdom but the King and Queen. The secret of her ascendancy was at last discovered by Sir Robert Walpole. The Queen was ruptured—which till her last illness nobody knew but the King, her German nurse, Mrs. Mailborne, and Mrs. Clayton. This great state secret secured the ascendancy of the latter; and obtained the dignity for her husband of Viscount Sundon in the Irish peerage,—to which he was raised in 1735.

The chief female correspondents of Lady Sundon, as far as Mrs. Thomson has discovered, were the Duchess of Kent, the Duchess of Buckingham, the Countess of Pomfret, and the Countess of Pembroke. There is, however, as we have said, very little to recommend in any of their letters. They throw no light or illustration upon characters or events. One of her ladyship's correspondents, however, occasioned a happy remark from Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. "Lady Sundon is dead," writes Horace Walpole, "and I was saying to Lady Pomfret, 'to be sure she is dead very rich.' She replied with some warmth, 'She never took money.' When I came home, I mentioned this to Sir Robert. 'No,' said he,' 'but she took jewels; Lord Pomfret's place of Master of the Horse to the Queen was bought of her for a pair of diamond earrings of fourteen hundred pounds value.' One day that she wore them at a visit at old Marlborough's, as soon as she was gone the Duchess said to Lady Mary Wortley, 'How can that woman have the impudence to go about in that bribe?' 'Madam,' said Lady Mary, 'how would you have people know where wine is to be sold, unless there is a sign hung out!'"

The chief male correspondents of Lady Sundon are Pope's Lord Hervey—Archbishop Wake—Clayton, Bishop of Killala—Dr. Alured Clarke—Sir Richard Steele—and William Somerville the poet. The best letter is from Pope's Lord Hervey:—

"*Lord Hervey to Mrs. Clayton.*

"Hampton Court, July 31, 1733.

"Madam,—I am going this afternoon, with the Duke of Richmond, to Goodwood, for three or four days, but cannot leave this place without returning you my thanks for the favour of your letter; a debt, perhaps, you would be more ready to forgive than receive, but as it is of that sort, that one pays more for one's own sake than one's creditors, I plead no merit from the discharge of it, but the pleasure of taking any occasion to assure you how much I am your humble servant. I will not trouble you with any account of our occupations at Hampton Court. No mill-horse ever went in a more constant track, or a more unchanging circle; so that, by the assistance of an almanack for the day of the week, and a watch for the hour of the day, you may inform yourself fully, without any other intelligence but your memory, of every transaction within the verge of the Court. Walking, chaises, levees, and audiences fill the morning; at night the King plays at commerce and backgammon, and the Queen at quadrille, where poor Lady Charlotte runs her usual nightly gauntlet—the Queen pulling her hood, Mr. Schutz sputtering in her face, and the Princess Royal rapping her knuckles, all at a time. It was in vain she fled from persecution for her religion: she suffers for her pride what she escaped for her faith; undergoes in a drawing-room what she dreaded from the Inquisition, and will die a martyr to a Court, though not to a church. The Duke of Grafton takes his nightly opiate of lottery, and sleeps as usual between the Princesses Amelia and Carolina; Lord Grantham strolls from one room to another, (as Dryden says,) *like some discontented ghost that oft appears, and is forbid to speak,* and stirs himself about, as people stir a fire, not with any design, but in hopes to make it burn brisker, which his lordship constantly does, to no purpose, and yet tries as constantly as if it had ever once succeeded. At last the King comes up, the pool finishes, and everybody has their dismission: their Majesties retire to Lady Charlotte and my Lord Lifford; the Princesses, to Bilderbec and Lony; my Lord Grantham, to Lady Frances and Mr. Clark; some to supper, and some to bed; and thus (to speak in the Scripture phrase) the evening and the morning make the day. Adieu, dear Madam, and believe me, without the formality of a conclusion, most sincerely yours, Hervey."

This is quite in Walpole's manner; and induces us to expect an entertaining work from the forthcoming autobiography of the same writer.

One of Steele's letters relates to a request which Mrs. Thomson has omitted to explain. Steele, a Charter House boy himself, was, it appears, a candidate for the office of Master of the Charter House, vacant, in 1715, by the death of Burnet, author of 'The Theory of the Earth.' He consequently paid his court to Mrs. Clayton; and with some success as far as she was concerned,—though the appointment was given to a Dr. King. Another request contained in a letter from Archbishop Wake is the subject of a blundering note on the part of Mrs. Thomson. The letter itself is worth transcribing—because it relates to one of our historians whose merits are as yet imperfectly understood.—

"Good Madam,—I cannot forbear returning my most hearty thanks to you for your great favour to poor Mr. Echard, of which he expresses the deepest sense to me. I thought I had sufficiently prepared the Princess to have given him some reward for his present, he being both poor enough to need it, and humble enough to accept it. I still hope her Royal Highness and the Prince design him somewhat, for the books cost him above 12*l.* out of his pocket, and we little folk (I can speak it for my Lord Chancellor and myself and, I believe, may do it for more) presented him with twenty guineas a-piece for his last two volumes, plain bound. If you know anything is designed him, I beg an account of it; for I shall, God willing, wait upon the Princess to-morrow, and will put her in mind of this charity, if her present trouble has made her forget it; otherwise I should be sorry to speak of it. I am sure you will have the goodness to excuse this trouble, and the confidence which, encouraged by many instances of your favour, I repose in you; and believe me to be, with a very sincere respect, Madam, your most faithful obliged humble servant, W. Cant."

"The Mr. Echard," says Mrs. Thomson, "referred to in this letter can scarcely be Laurence Echard, the author of 'The History of England,'—since he was at that time Archdeacon of Stowe, and possessed many other preferments: yet, since Echard dedicated the first part of his History to George the First, it appears likely that he would become the subject of royal favour." Now, the date of the Archbishop's letter is 1718,—the same year in which Echard's second and third volumes of his History appeared. There cannot, therefore, be a doubt in any mind but Mrs. Thomson's that the Echard of the Archbishop's letter was Echard the historian. We may add, while on this subject, that the first part of the History, as Mrs. Thomson calls it,—meaning the first volume,—was not dedicated to George the First; but was published seven years before the accession of the House of Hanover,—and, what is more, dedicated to the Duke of Ormond.

Mrs. Clayton was not only troubled with the wants of essayists like Steele and historians like Echard,—but the claims of poets were also placed before her. Clergymen called upon her to assist Stephen Duck, the Thresher-poet; while Somerville pleaded the cause of his poem of 'The Chase,' on account perhaps of his "cousin Clayton,"—to whom he desires to be remembered; and Savage was recommended to her notice for the laurel that was vacant by the death of Eusden. Of "Stephen Duck and good Queen Caroline," hitched into verse in the 'Heroic Epistle,' there is little that is new in the letters before us;—and Somerville writes in the common complimentary phrase of the dedications of his day. We shall, therefore, pass by this part of Mrs. Thomson's work; and conclude our extracts with the letter about Savage.—

"*Lord Tyrconnell to Mrs. Clayton.*

"Arlington Street, Nov. 8, 1730.

"Madam,—I flatter myself that you will be so good to pardon the freedom of this address, it being in behalf of one who has two pretensions to the Royal goodness that seldom fail of success; first, that he stands in need of it, and that in the opinion of the best judges, he is qualified for it in the particular for which I beg leave humbly to recommend him; it is to the place of Poet-Laureate. The best judges of poetry that I mean, are the Queen and Mr. Pope; I have heard that her Majesty has approved of his poetry. That he lives is entirely owing to the unparalleled goodness of both their Majesties, which godlike perfection they possess in the highest degree, a virtue inseparable from the greatest minds. After this, you will easily perceive I mean Richard Savage, who is the bearer of this. I know from my friend Sir William Strickland, that he was much obliged to you upon the unhappy occasion, and if any more favour was shown him upon my appearing for him, I acknowledge it with all the gratitude due to so great an obligation. After this, I need say nothing for his loyalty and good affection to the Government. I should think him the last of mankind that would not sacrifice his life for their Majesties' service, to whom he owes it. The favour of great princes is generally invidious, but I know nobody that does not rejoice in the share you have of her Majesty's, who is too discerning a Princess to bestow undeservedly. Producing obscure merit, as in the case of Stephen Duck, has done you a great deal of honour, and if you are so good to favour Mr. Savage in this instance, he stands too much in need of it, and it will lay a very great obligation on me, who have the honour to be with the greatest esteem and respect, Madam, your most obedient humble servant, Tyrconnel."

This Earl of Tyrconnel was the nobleman so lustily and so unjustly abused by Savage; and the letter is of importance in weighing the merits of the quarrel between them.

Mrs. Thomson seems not to have understood its value,—indeed she appears to know very little about Savage or the subject of the letter: and it may be as well, therefore, to tell her, that in copying Johnson's account of Savage's birth she post-dates it by a year; and that in thinking the poem of 'The Bastard' was published after the letter of the Earl of Tyrconnel was written, she is still further from the truth,—since the letter was written in 1730, and the poem published, in folio, in 1728.

It only remains for us to add, that Lady Sundon's ambition had such a check in the death of the Queen that she was subject to fits of madness ever after:—and that she died, childless, on the 1st January 1741-2. The peerage expired with her husband, in 1752.

Hoffman and Fantastic Literature—[*Contes Nocturnes de Hoffman—La Vie de E. T. A. Hoffman, par Prof. Christian*]. Paris, Lavigne; London, Dulau.

HOFFMAN's popularity, long on the wane in Germany, has recently received an extraordinary increase in France partly from the new edition of his 'Fantastic Tales,' profusely and cleverly illustrated by Gavarni, but chiefly from 'The Tales of Night,' collected and translated by Prof. Christian,—many of which have been hitherto unedited even in Germany. For his threefold labours as translator, editor, and biographer, Prof. Christian has the rare qualification of a sympathy almost amounting to mental identity with his author and hero. In a brief sketch of his own life as a student at Strasburg he recounts the ardour with which he devoted himself to the forgotten speculations of the Alchemists and Rosicrucians,—the mystic reveries which he combined with his chemical studies,—and the metaphysical inductions which he derived from the most rigid experiments in practical philosophy. Like Hoffman, he loved to indulge in illimitable ideality. Facts he valued only as starting-points for the erratic wanderings of imagination; and he viewed realities but as materials from which fancy, by an exhaustive process, might derive a series of the most unsubstantial abstractions. In some recent publications Prof. Christian has adopted a different course:—like Jouffroy, he has endeavoured to subject waking dreams to the test of logical analysis, and to discover in their visionary forms the physical fact which gave the first impulse to their creation. His edition of 'The Tales of Night' and his 'Life of Hoffman' bring before us a literature and a philosophy which, though not wholly new, have hitherto made little progress out of Germany,—and in Germany itself have never been so fully developed as by Hoffman and his translator.

A modern critic asserts that 'Fantastic Tales' should be called the "Literature of Visions or Dreams." But a dreamer and a visionary are very different characters. The former makes impossible combinations of possible facts; the latter abandons facts altogether, and takes no heed of realities either in the elements or the combinations of his fantasies. Dryden gives an admirable description of the stuff which dreams are made of:—

> Sometimes forgotten things long cast behind
> Rush forward to the brain and come to mind.
> The nurse's legends are for truth received,
> And the man dreams but what the boy believed.
> Sometimes we but rehearse a former play,
> The night restores our actions done by day;
> As hounds in sleep will open for their prey.

But the essence of a vision as distinguished from a dream is indistinctness such as that of which we have an unrivalled description in the book of Job:—"A spirit stood before mine eyes, but I could not discern the form thereof." It is true—

> That many monstrous forms in dreams we see
> Which neither were nor are nor e'er can be;

but these monstrosities partake of the nature of rude guesses:—a fact to which Dugald Stewart was the first to direct attention.

Hoffman's fantasies have been judged unfairly when they were regarded as dreams. They belong to a state of mind experienced at some time or other by most people—we mean *reverie;* which Locke defines to be that mental condition "when ideas float in our mind without any reflection or regard of the understanding." This state is commonly and properly described as "between sleeping and waking;" but it is not properly called "dreamy,"—for in dreams the ideas do not float, but generally have a marked fixity. The physical constitution predisposes many to reverie:—persons in whom the nervous temperament predominates are generally inclined to indulge in it; and when once the habit is formed it is very difficult to be eradicated. These preliminary observations will serve to illustrate our view of Hoffman and his works.—We shall proceed to relate some of those circumstances of his life which had the greatest influence in the formation of his character.

Hoffman was born on a stormy night during the winter of 1776, at Königsberg in Prussia. He was a frail, feeble infant; and his limbs were so attenuated that it was not deemed possible he could live. His mother was one of those invalids on whose countenance protracted suffering leaves the impress of profound melancholy without destroying beauty of feature or delicacy of expression. She bestowed unusual care on a child who seemed to have received from her an heritage of woe; and as he grew up he repaid her care with a devotion that bordered on idolatry. Those who knew him in the days of his boyhood declare that he used to sit for hours looking at the attenuated figure, pale features, and sorrowful expression of his suffering mother with a melancholy fondness which it was exquisitely painful to witness. When he had attained the age of twenty, he went one morning into her chamber to kiss her hand;—but found her lying dead in the midst of the room. In the act of undressing she had been struck by apoplexy.

A younger sister of his mother had aided her in the education of the child. She had a sweet voice and played charmingly on the lute. Hoffman always attributed his passion for music to the influence of "Aunt Sophia." She too died:—but he declared that the images of his aunt and mother were ever present to his mind the moment he touched a pen. His aunt, he declared, had returned to life; for he had seen her in a convent of nuns, through the curtain of the choir, singing hymns, and accompanying herself on a viol, in exactly the same posture as the St. Cecilia of Raphael.

At the age of thirteen, Hoffman was put under the care of his great-uncle;—the most prosaic lover of order that ever held the office of counsellor of justice. A youthful visionary and an aged methodical lawyer did not agree very well together; but the youth nurtured his dissatisfaction in silence, or only vented it in grotesque caricatures. The various members of the family, typified as demons and other diabolical beings, were sketched on the leaves of the family Bible: and many of these groups are said to contain the germs of his wildest fictions. It is recorded that at this period he exhibited symptoms of a cruel and malignant disposition;—taking delight in wantonly torturing animals, tyrannizing over boys weaker than himself, and exerting the most perverse ingenuity to devise means for frightening children. This misanthropy continued until he became an author. From the time when he commenced his first romance, he went into the opposite extreme; making himself a perfect slave to his friends and acquaintance,—while his attachment to his cat amounted to a passion.

At college Hoffman devoted himself eagerly to legal studies;—not from any love of the law, but from a desire to secure an early independence in order that he might pursue without risk his favourite studies—painting and music. In 1795 he passed his first examination; and was appointed to a subordinate office under one of his uncles at Glogau. While residing there, he was induced by a friend to make a tour through the mountain districts of Upper Silesia and Saxony. In the course of their journey they stopped at a fashionable watering-place; and Hoffman's friend dragged him to the gaming table. The friend lost:—but he induced Hoffman to take his place; who, though utterly inexperienced, won a considerable sum. This induced him to tempt fortune on his own account the following night. His run of luck was unprecedented; and when the party broke up he found himself in possession of a fortune. As he went down the stairs, an old officer said to him, "Young man, if you had known how to play you would have broken the bank;—go on; and as soon as you know your business well the devil will fly away with you, as he has with others." This produced such an effect on Hoffman that when he returned to his lodgings he made a solemn vow never again to touch a card;—and he religiously kept his word.

From Glogau Hoffman removed to Berlin; and after a short time was nominated assessor to the Regency of Posen. But Poland was distasteful to his genius. He caricatured his colleagues, the magnates of the city, and nearly every person of note in the neighbourhood. These caricatures got abroad; and raised him so many enemies that he was removed to Plozk,—and afterwards to Warsaw.

At Warsaw he devoted all his leisure to painting and music. His taste in the former was as grotesque as in the latter it was pure. He covered the walls of his saloon with portraits of his friends added to the bodies of dragons, serpents, or the fantastic animals of heraldry; while he drilled an orchestra of amateurs to perform with the most rigid precision the finest pieces of Mozart. Thus occupied, he had no leisure to attend to such trifles as the battle of Jena, the overthrow of Prussian power, the dissolution of the Regency of Warsaw,—and the consequent loss of his place and pension. At length, his funds were exhausted;—and he returned penniless to Berlin. Many were the abortive efforts which he made to gain a livelihood. He painted pictures and composed operas;—but nobody would purchase either. He offered to try his hand at portraits;—but could not obtain a single commission. In 1808, he was appointed director of the Opera at Bamberg: where he made the acquaintance of Carl Maria von Weber,—to whom he communicated the wild legend on which Der Freischütz was ultimately founded. His emoluments at Bamberg scarcely sufficed for his support: but in the spring of 1812 he received an advantageous offer from Dresden,—and removed thither with his family. Before we follow him to Dresden, we must give some extracts from the whimsical journal which he kept at Bamberg.

I cannot help laughing at myself, just as in Shakspeare men dance and jest round their open tombs. On the eleventh of March at half-past eight precisely, I was a jackass; to-day I was vexed because I discovered that on the 26th, 28th, and 30th I had been a huge baboon.—Divine irony, excellent means to hide or cure folly, come to my aid; it is actually time to labour in literature!

Hoffman resided at Dresden during 1813, "the year of liberation;" but he viewed the struggle between the French and Russians with

the apathy of an indifferent spectator. He kept a journal of the events during the siege of Dresden: and he thus records his conduct and feelings on the 26th of August.—

Between four and five o'clock the cannonade became sharper, and we heard the whistling of bullets mingled with the roar of the guns. We went down, for we ran great risks where we were. At the moment I entered my house a shell passed over my head with a horrible rustling sound; it fell at the distance of about fifteen paces, just in front of the residence of Marshal Gouvion St. Cyr in the midst of four barrels of powder. There were more than thirty persons in the street at the time of the explosion, but no one was hurt. Some minutes after, a second and a third shell came; it was clear that an enemy's battery commanded the quarter where we dwelt. All the inhabitants assembled on the lower flight of the stone stair-case which was out of the direction of the windows. At every explosion there were cries, tears, and lamentations,—and not a glass of wine or rum to fortify the heart! What an accursed position! I stole quietly out of the back door, and ran to the house of my friend Keller the actor. We were sitting, glass in hand, at the window which overlooks the New Market, when a shell fell into the middle of the square. A Westphalian soldier, who was pumping water, had his head shattered. At some distance a respectably dressed burgher fell; he made some efforts to rise, but his body was torn open, and his intestines protruded from the wound:—he fell back quite dead. Keller let his glass fall in terror; I calmly emptied mine and said "How poor a thing is life! how feeble is the nature of man which cannot resist the force of a little fragment of iron!"

A few days after, Hoffman visited one of the scenes of contest; which he thus describes:—

To-day, for the first time in my life, I saw a field of battle. They were preparing to clear it; they were stripping the dead, and laying them in pits by twenties and thirties. At the spot where I was, the Russian chasseurs had charged the French under a heavy fire of grape shot. Thus the ground was covered with bodies of Russians, many of them mutilated and shattered in the most frightful manner. I saw one soldier who had half of his head carried away,—a frightful spectacle! horses, men, muskets, swords and schakos were piled and jumbled together. On more than one visage I could still trace the menace and fury of the combat. One Russian officer, a handsome young man of twenty-eight at the most, held his sabre above his head in his right hand; in this position he had been struck by death. A ball had torn away his left arm and shattered his side. Not far from him, I heard something moving in the grass; advancing I saw a Russian soldier with both his legs broken by a cannon ball; his legs were glued together with clotted gore. Nevertheless, he was sitting up and eating very tranquilly a piece of ammunition bread. The poor devil had been three days in this condition.

It was during this terrific contest that Hoffman wrote his 'Dialogue between a Poet and a Composer,' and his 'Golden Pot;'—both of which appeared at Leipsic towards the close of the year. His tales, his musical compositions, and his caricatures raised him to sudden celebrity, just when tranquillity had been restored to Europe by the treaty of Vienna. He was invited to Berlin, raised to high office in the judicial department of the State, and received at the houses of the principal nobility. His admirers expected that he would repay their kindness,—or rather their ostentatious patronage,—by reading some portion of an unpublished work, accompanying their daughters on the piano, or paying some elegant compliment to his hosts. But in general they only obtained grimaces: for Hoffman was impatient of *ennui*—and his deformed features under its influence were contracted into the most frightful grin. He was soon dropped by the Prussian nobles;—and not received by the old friends whom he had deserted for titled acquaintances. Thenceforth, his evenings and nights were spent in the tavern. As he only drank the most costly wines, his prolific pen was severely taxed to support such expense; and he became dependent on some speculative publishers who made him advances on the credit of projected works. Such a life could not last long. Early in 1822 it became evident that his health was fast declining. It was at first supposed that his extravagant grief for the death of his cat, *Murr*, had injured his constitution;—but it soon appeared that his disease was more deeply seated. After several weeks of intense agony, he died, on the 25th of June 1822. A simple but elegant monument was erected to his memory by subscription.

Professor Christian has justly remarked that most, if not all, of the wild fantasies in Hoffman's works were real incidents viewed through the medium of visionary reverie. Let us take the opening scene of 'The Golden Pot' as an example.—

On Ascension-day, about three hours after noon, a young man running under the arch of the black gate at Dresden, stumbled over a stall of apples and cakes kept by an ugly old woman. Her wares were scattered about the street, and the young rogues of the neighbourhood seized them as lawful plunder. At the cries of the old woman, all the other women who kept stalls in the open air ran after the young man with furious shouts, seized him, and seemed ready to tear him in pieces. He could only escape by giving them his purse, which was tolerably well stocked; but in spite of this compensation, which so amply repaid the damage he had done, the old woman cried to him with a sneer, "Run, run, my fine fellow; you will soon fall into the crystal." At these words, which reached his ear from a distance, the student Anselmus was seized with involuntary terror, and ran still faster. On reaching the end of the avenue which leads to the baths of Lipk, he felt himself out of breath; and slackened his pace, meditating on the strange menace of the old apple-woman. A crowd of holiday folks was assembled at the entrance of the baths of Lipk. Joyous strains of music were heard from the interior. Poor Anselmus was very sorrowful. Ascension-day had been his annual holiday; on every return of this anniversary he had not failed to regale himself with beer or coffee, without forgetting a small dose of good old rum:—but unfortunately his fall over the apples and cakes of a cursed sorceress had exhausted the moderate hoard which was designed to purchase his pleasures. Adieu beer, adieu rum, adieu the merry glances of lively girls, adieu to all the sweet illusions of a holiday! Anselmus, with his head down, passed the baths of Lipk, and went to walk off his sorrow on the banks of the Elbe. He threw himself on a mossy mound at the foot of a willow-tree, filled his pipe with k'naster, a medicated tobacco invented by his friend Dr. Paulman, and began to smoke.

If such an incident had occurred to Hoffman himself, or if he had witnessed it, the character of the reveries in which the smoker may be supposed to indulge might be predicted. It was one of his most common sayings, that "the devil will put his foot into everything, however good at the outset:"—and as an example of his unhappy propensity thus to expect the worst, his friendly biographer records that when he once charitably gave a child a present of fruit, he became tortured with the idea that he might have become the involuntary cause of the child's death,—as the fruit might produce a surfeit, or some other fatal disease; and all the remonstrances of his friends failed to dispel this gloomy anticipation. Once, then, that the idea of the apple-woman being a sorceress had seized upon his mind, a whole phantasmagoria of horrors was sure to present itself to his morbid imagination. After a long and rather whimsical description of Anselmus's sad meditations, Hoffman thus pursues the story:—

As Anselmus exhaled the last whiff of his tobacco, he was diverted from his sombre meditations by a sort of murmuring noise in the grass near him. The indistinct sound ascended into the branches of the willow which formed a shade above his head. It was at first like the whisper of a light breeze in the foliage, then it might be deemed the rush of the wings of little birds, and finally it might have been supposed that the branches of the willow rattled against each other like silver bells. Anselmus listened—by degrees the indistinct sounds formed themselves into words as of a plaintive melody borne by the wind. "Glide we," said this marvellous voice, "glide we, my sister, across the green leaves, and through the flowers on the bank; let us dance in this balmy air by the dreamy light of the sun, which soon must disappear." "Is it the evening breeze that has taken a human voice?" thought the student. Suddenly the voice ceased, and the harmonious vibration of three strokes on a crystal timbrel made him raise his head. He perceived three little serpents of green and gold suspended by the tail from the flexible branches of the willow, and raising their beautiful heads towards the sky. Then the same voice repeated the same words, and the little serpents sported with admirable agility under the dome of foliage, glittering like streams of emerald on the brown bark of the willow. The crystalline vibrations were renewed, and Anselmus saw the head of one of the three serpents incline towards him, and regard him with glittering golden eyes, the fascination of which was such that the young man panted with inquietude and with a pleasure with which a strange sorrow was largely blended.

"The airy tongues that syllable men's names" are a common phenomenon of reverie: indeed, it is scarcely possible, in some moods of the mind, when taking a solitary walk, to avoid this personification of sound. There is, as most have experienced, something more than metaphor in such expressions as the *babbling* brook, the *whispering* breeze, the *murmuring* tide, and the *moaning* waves heralding a storm. Hoffman, when this tale was written, was at the very height of his passion for his fair pupil Cecilia; and it is not wonderful that he imagined that the willow, the wind, and the setting sun spoke to him of the charms of secret love.—

It seemed to the student that Nature had become more joyous around him, and that everything was animated by unknown poetry. Odorous scents rose from the earth and descended from the heaven; a vague song which had in it nothing earthly lost itself in distant strains like echoes of Paradise; and when the last ray of the setting sun sank in the horizon behind the mountains of Bohemia, Anselmus heard a grave and distinct voice articulate these sounds, "Who will rekindle the rays extinguished in the shroud of twilight? Everything passeth away, everything dies, disappears, and is lost. Who shall give back life to the hearts that are dead?" The voice was hushed like the last growl of thunder, the crystal bells were broken with a dissonant clash; the three green and gold serpents glided into the waving grass, and by a thousand sinuous turns gained the waters of the Elbe. A trembling tongue of flame hovered for some time over the surface of the water, and night then spread her veil over the horizon.

Now, this picture is nothing more than a personification of the thoughts of Beattie's 'Hermit.' The voice within but echoes suggestions from without when it mournfully asks,—

> But when shall Spring visit the mouldering urn,
> Oh when shall it dawn on the night of the grave?

Sir Walter Scott rather unfairly assailed 'The Sand-man,'—one of Hoffman's wildest exaggerations, and which Mrs. Shelley unconsciously imitated (so far as the first and primary idea is concerned) in her 'Frankenstein.' Hoffman seriously believed that he had been pursued by some malignant influence from childhood, which he identified with "the Sand-man;" a mysterious being, who unites in his single person the attributes of the Billy Winkie and the Old Bogie of our English nurseries,—he being invoked to throw sand in the eyes of the naughty children who refuse to go to bed at a proper hour. Miss Edgeworth, in her clever tale of 'Harrington,' has shown the dangerous consequences which such modes of terrifying children

produce in after-life. The lawyer Copelius in the German story holds the same position as Old Simon in the English tale; but while the wild genius of Hoffman heaps horror upon horror, Miss Edgeworth (from first to last) shows that the terrors of Harrington were groundless and unreal.

But the most terrific and grotesque of Hoffman's tales is 'The Affianced Spectre,'—now for the first time restored to its proper place in his works, and carefully edited by Professor Christian. It was from this tale that 'Der Freischütz' was derived. The early part of the legend is sufficiently like the drama not to require repetition; but the close is one of the strangest combinations of the grotesque and the terrible ever produced by a fantastic imagination. Wilhelm, the hero, who is induced to cast the magic balls in the infernal glen on the day of trial, shoots his mistress instead of the game at which he aimed; while the mocking fiend by whom he had been misled stands by his side and triumphs in his misery. Weber stopped at this *dénouement*,—which he altered and softened. But Hoffman pursues the horrible into further scenes. Wilhelm, forgetful of his plighted love to Catherine, and of the oath which he had sworn at her grave to live single for her sake, marries another wife before the close of the year,—and immediately becomes a prey to the most bitter remorse. To dispel his gloom, he resolves to make a solitary excursion into the forest. As he rides along, he hears the approach of the Wild Huntsman and his infernal pack.—

> The barking of the hellish hounds, the neighing of the horses, the cries of the huntsmen, and the howls of the wolves they chased echoed through the forest. Wilhelm shuddered in the midst of his solitary course, and driving the spurs into the flanks of his horse urged him forward with headlong speed. The scenery disappeared with supernatural fleetness from the eyes of Wilhelm which were glazed with terror. Marshes, forests, lakes, rivers, were hurried past him; whilst the Wild Huntsman and his terrific train, menacing but invisible, were still at his side. He heard the panting of the weary dogs and the yells of the chased wolves everywhere and always in the tangled wood.
>
> Suddenly a tempest arises — he is thrown from his horse by a thunderbolt — night has fallen when he recovers his senses. A mysterious voice commands him to follow; and at the same time a glimmering taper, held by invisible hands, appears to guide him on his way. It leads him to the entrance of a cavern,—and then down the slippery steps of a stone staircase deep into the bowels of the earth;—and then it pauses before the lofty portals of a hall, through the chinks of which a glimmering light appears. Wilhelm pushed open the door and entered.—
>
> It was an immense hall, and in it were assembled all the dead whom Wilhelm had ever known. Their huge skeletons were seated in chairs of black oak. They discussed together the matters which occurred on earth. Some laughed with a hoarse and convulsive laugh which made their teeth chatter like castanets; others wept, others cried, danced, or howled with demoniac joy. These columns of bones knocked against each other with terrific grimaces. In the midst of the hall was the beautiful skeleton of a young girl, pointing with her fleshless hands to the bouquet of an affianced bride which she wore in her bosom. On her white skull the tresses of flaxen hair, soft as silk, were artistically plaited; and she wore a crown of white roses, white as her own blanched bones. As Wilhelm passed the threshold, she turned towards him in silence. Then there rose a demoniac shout of laughter. There were shouts of applause, creaking of bones, mountebank dances; and a large sulphureous flame was seen through windows which opened on the forest, appearing like a mimicry of dawn. The skeleton of the young girl came up in front of Wilhelm, and her eyeless sockets turned a gloomy expression on the visage of the poor huntsman. He recognized Catherine his old affianced bride. He wished to fly, but the skeleton hung lovingly on his neck; her bones arranged themselves to the motion of the waltz; and Wilhelm driven mad by terror felt himself raised from the earth and dragged into a waltz, at first slow and measured but by degrees gradually accelerated into steps more violent, more rapid, and more infernal. The other skeletons made room for the dancers, and were loud in their applause. When they reached the end of the saloon, the dancers were not stopped by the wall, through which they passed as if it had been made of the thinnest wax. The open parts of the forest were crowded by the dead who joined in the dance. The waltz was sustained without rest or cessation. Wilhelm and Catherine whirled round each other in space without ever touching the earth; and both oscillated like bodies suspended on a gibbet when the breeze of evening rattles the bones in the chains. The waltzers whirled round each other until cock-crow. On the following morning the woodmen on going to their work found the huntsman dead at the foot of a tree. Leaves of white roses covered the soil around him. At the distance of a few steps lay the body of his horse gnawed to the bone by the wolves.

Professor Christian justly remarks, that in discussing Hoffman's works two distinct questions are mixed together: — the suitableness of *reverie* for imaginative fiction, and the limits within which grotesque and terrible invention ought to be restrained. If *reverie* be allowed a literary place, it must fairly claim adjudication on its own special laws, — or, at least, the laws of general imaginative fiction must be modified to meet the peculiar exigencies of its nature. Now, Hoffman has been usually estimated by weights and measures belonging to forms of literature with which he had nothing in common. His countrymen complained that he developed no psychological phenomenon such as they imagine that they perceive in Undine or Peter Schlemihl. Sober, practical England — where visionaries have no chance of toleration, save when they exaggerate a popular prejudice—regarded him as an author who heaped extravagance upon extravagance, without a thought of aim or purport: while until recently France had no community with a genius which prided itself in isolation, and sought no sympathy—and consequently no applause. But Prof. Christian has set forth Hoffman in the true phase for judgment—as one who opened a new field of literature, deriving its strength from, and running its course in, the spectral limits of that doubtful region where rationality and insanity come in contact; for one form of insanity at least is simply continuity of reverie. Hoffman's life was such as to predispose him to visionary existence: and this tendency was carried to an excess which, as there are few who can by possibility feel it, there will always be only a limited number to appreciate.

MEDICAL WORKS.

Animal Chemistry; or, Chemistry in its Application to Physiology and Pathology. By Baron Liebig. Edited by William Gregory, M.D.—*Chemistry and Physics in relation to Physiology and Pathology.* By Baron Justus Liebig, M.D., F.R.S.—The first of these works is a third edition of Liebig's Animal Chemistry,'—and a proof of the value attached in this country to the views so ably expounded by the author. The name of Liebig has, in fact, become so familiar to the British public by this and his former work on agricultural chemistry, and so connected with new views and bold generalizations, that almost anything to which his name is attached becomes a saleable article in the market.—The second work at the head of this notice is an attempt to take what we cannot but regard as an unfair advantage of that writer's name. It appears that in the new editions of Liebig's 'Animal Chemistry' there is an entirely new section, forming an introduction to the second part of the work. This section was published by the author in Germany, previously to its being sent to the English translator: and here it is translated and published separately—forming a volume which has been advertised as a new work by Baron Liebig. There is no statement that it is a translation—no preface or introduction; and the reader was left to wonder, till the 'Animal Chemistry' came out, how such a work had found its way into our language at all. Whether or not this section of the new work was published in Germany by the author as a separate paper, without any indication of its destination, we are not aware: but we have thought it right to call attention to the above facts—as many persons might be induced to suppose that the work 'Chemistry and Physics' contained something more than is to be found in the 'Animal Chemistry.'

Remarks upon Medical Organisation and Reform. By Edwin Lee.—We wish that any remarks of ours would induce the general reader to take up this volume. Medical reform is a question that deeply interests the public; and it is very evident that no reform can take place that will have the sanction of the medical profession. It is only by a well formed public opinion to support him that any Minister of the Crown will be able to cleanse the Augean stable of medical abuses. It is, besides, less a question of interest to the medical man than to the public. Leave the Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians to his Greek and Latin examinations and assumed superiority in the profession,—and he would never demand a system that should compel him to possess a knowledge of his profession rather than of the black-letter books that are written concerning it. Touch not the newly-acquired dignity of the Fellow of the College of Surgeons,—and he would allow the system of exclusiveness to go on in his College till the building tumbled to pieces, and buried in its ruins the great museum it contains—and which is the noblest monument ever reared to the honour of his profession. Let alone the Apothecaries' Society, the Universities of Scotland, that of Dublin, and those of London, Oxford, and Cambridge—and, like the Kilkenny cats, they will fight till nothing but their tails are left rather than give up some injudiciously or ignorantly bestowed right, for the sake of a rational system of reform. During all the time that these bodies are gratifying their self-complacency, or quarrelling about their peculiar privileges, quackery stalks through the land unchecked and unreproved. More intent upon destroying each other than their common enemy, the prosecutions and threatenings of the College of Physicians and the Apothecaries' Society have rather been directed against their educated rivals of other institutions than against the ignorant pretender. For aught we see, too, things are getting worse; and at the present moment there is less likelihood of the members of the various medical licensing bodies uniting for a measure of medical reform than ever. Under these circumstances, we strongly commend the subject to the reflection of an intelligent public:—and we think Mr. Lee's book is one of those that will assist them in coming to a right conclusion.

The Why and the Wherefore; or, the Philosophy of Life, Health, and Disease. By C. Searle, M.D. —This work treats of all the great questions of physiology and pathology; and in most of them the author has his own opinion. This opinion he supports with all the facts that a considerable practice and an observant mind can supply;—and these are the "new and original views" announced in the title-page. The misfortune of books like the present is, that the authors seem utterly incapable of distinguishing between general principles or theories in the highest degree probable, and those which are mere hypotheses supported by an array of one-sided facts. Such books we feel called upon to condemn as frequently as we meet with them—though at the risk of being charged with snarling. Were we writing for medical men, this might not be so often necessary—but the books that come before us are mostly written for the public; and there is nothing that the public requires more to be warned against than the false and interested reasonings of medical works. The only books from which the public can gain any real advantage on the subject of health and disease are those on anatomy and physiology — written by competent teachers in these departments of science.

The Surgical, Mechanical, and Medical Treatment

of the Teeth. By James Robinson.—This is a very complete and well-written treatise on dental surgery; comprehending every department of the subject, and illustrated by 139 engravings.

Observations on the Growth and Irregularities of Children's Teeth. By W. H. Mortimer.—A little book, directed to one department of dental surgery. The author seems to understand his profession:—and his advice is, on the whole, judicious.

Surgical and Practical Observations on the Diseases of the Human Foot: to which is added, *Advice on the Hand.* By John Eisenberg.—There are some diseases of the foot—such as corns and bunions,—and of the hand—as warts—which have gained little respect or attention from regularly educated medical men. Yet, every one knows that these are painful and unsightly things. To the cure of such diseases, and all others to which the hand and foot are subject, Mr. Eisenberg appears to have devoted himself. We do not find any attempt in this volume to encroach upon the province of the regular surgeon; and could recommend the volume, but that it appears in the form of a costly quarto of some 250 pages—a style of publication which, we think, the subject hardly demands.

The Nature and Treatment of Gout. By W. H. Robertson, M.D.—The author of this work, living at Buxton, has had favourable opportunities for observing the phenomena of the disease called gout. He has collected a large number of facts,—and methodically arranged them in this treatise. We have looked through the work; and, although we do not find much that is new, we think the writer gives proof of being a judicious practitioner and not wanting in a knowledge of the science of his day. Few departments of science have received a greater impulse from chemical discoveries than that which relate to the food and nutrition of the animal kingdom:—consequently, all those diseases which depend on errors in diet are beginning to be better understood; and with none is this more the case than with gout. The medical profession are now in a position to pronounce decidedly with regard to the causes of gout: and, although their treatment is not always perfectly successful, it is much more certain than it was. The moral, however, to be learnt from this is, that persons had better avoid the causes of the disease than run the hazard of recovering their health when it has once been lost.

The Curative Power of Vital Magnetism. By Mrs. Lavinia Jones.—A few cases strung together for the purpose of proving that animal magnetism will cure all sorts of disease which other remedies fail to reach. The same has been reported of charms, incantations, mustard-seed, brandy and salt, infinitesimal doses, cold water, Morison's pills, and the thousand and one quack nostrums that disgrace the country and the age in which they are vended and patronized.

Contributions to the History of Medicine in Ireland. By W. R. Wilde, M.R.I.A.—This is the reprint of an article from the *Dublin Quarterly Review of Medical Science;* and embraces a history of periodical medical literature in Ireland—including notices of the medical and philosophical societies of Dublin. It is an interesting contribution to the history of a special subject.

Observations on the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia, and on the Dispensatories of Dr. Christison and Dr. A. T. Thomson. By Richard Phillips, F.R.S.—This work is the reprint of several papers on the subjects of pharmacy and of the preparations of the Pharmacopœias that have been published elsewhere by the author. It contains a series of able criticisms on the compounds of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia: although they come in the form of "a Roland for an Oliver"—in answer to some stringent remarks, by Scotch Pharmacologists on the London Pharmacopœia. One of the most important papers, to the public, which this series contains is that devoted to 'Illustrations of the State of Pharmacy in England.' From this paper, it appears that many of our chemists and druggists on whom we rely for medicines do not take those necessary precautions to insure their purity, or even sameness of preparation, that would preserve the public from occasional poisoning. We cannot but believe that such a state of things might be easily remedied by a little attention on the part of the legislature. The sale of poisonous drugs, whether for use in the arts or in medicine, is a subject to which more attention ought to be paid: and we feel convinced that some means might be adopted for securing not only uniformity in the strength of medicines, but more discrimination in their use and sale.

Cases and Observations on Spinal Deformity. By Samuel Hare.—The author's practice seems to have been judicious in these cases:—but not more so, we should hope, than that of every educated medical practitioner under the same circumstances.

Urino-genital Disease. By George Franks.—This book, although written by a legitimate member of the medical profession, has for its object the puffing off of a specific of which the writer is the patentee. We only notice such works as these to put upon them the stamp of our strongest condemnation—and to warn the public against the unmanly and unprofessional conduct of their authors.

The Hunterian Oration for 1846. By W. Lawrence, F.R.S.—This oration reflects but little credit on its author. We recollect the time when Mr. Lawrence was foremost and loudest in his demands for medical reform. Why such a change should have come over the "spirit of his dream"—and why he should so fiercely repudiate his former views and associates—we can scarcely imagine. The change, however, could have been tolerated had he treated those who differed from him, or those whose interests he thinks are opposed to his own, with that courtesy which is due from one professional man to another. Few occasions could serve better than the delivery of such a lecture as this for bringing men of different grades of medical opinion together—and for pointing out to them the elevating and ennobling character of the profession in which they are engaged—thus softening down the asperities engendered by competition and varying professional grades: especially since it was in celebration of the memory of one whose noble spirit, in its love of science, would have despised the petty cavilling of professional pique and official malice. But this opportunity was, on the contrary, taken to elevate one part of the profession at the expense of the other—and to add one more difficulty in the way of a rational reform in medicine. We are glad to find that the Council are not made in any way responsible for this hasty and injudicious production.

A Guide to the Use of the Buxton Waters. By W. H. Robertson, M.D.—To those who have determined to visit Buxton this little book will be of service. The Buxton waters are thermal,—having a heat of 82°; and to cases where the drinking and bathing in warm water is desirable they are well adapted.

Liebig's Physiology applied in the Treatment of Functional Derangement and Organic Disease. By John Leeson.—We are sorry to be called on to condemn so many medical books; and feel quite disheartened as we take up volume after volume, finding so little to commend. Many are written by clever men—men in many instances competent undoubtedly to the treatment of ordinary cases of disease, but certainly not to writing on the subjects which they select. We feel called upon to be more severe as writers for the public than if we were writing for medical men. The object of these books is to lead the multitude to regard the writers as more knowing than their brethren;—and the attempt to do this is made by superficial reasoning on ill-observed facts. Many contain specious views, which to the uneducated sound as well as those of the profound and laborious inquirer after truth. On these grounds, we decline recommending Mr. Leeson's book. We look in vain for proofs that he understands Liebig's 'Physiology'—as he is pleased to call it—better than his neighbours: and he certainly has not brought forward any satisfactory evidence that his own treatment of disease is more than ordinarily successful. He has failed, therefore, to realize the suggestion of his title-page—in showing, so far at least as he is concerned, "the advantages of modern science over former methods in the treatment of disease."

On Disorders of the Cerebral Circulation, and on the Connection between the Affections of the Brain and Diseases of the Heart. By George Burrows, M.D.—This book contains the substance of the Lumleian lectures delivered by Dr. Burrows at the College of Physicians, in 1843 and 1844. It is seldom that we meet with a medical book deserving so high commendation. The author has treated his subject in a way that all medical writers would do well to imitate. Previously to discussing the nature of the disorders of the cerebral circulation, he enters into a critical examination of the opinions entertained by physiologists on the question of the possibility of increasing or decreasing the quantity of blood in the head. Simple as this question may appear—and readily as any one unacquainted with physiology would maintain, from his own sensations, that the quantity of blood in the head may be different at different times—yet some of our most learned medical men had decided to the contrary. Dr. Burrows has, however, in this book, proved that the popular impression is correct:—and this conclusion must have an important bearing on practice. Another important part of the work is the full investigation given to the influence that diseases of the heart have upon the state of the brain. From an extended series of cases, it appears that more than half the cases of apoplexy which occur are complicated with disease of the heart. We cannot pursue Dr. Burrows in detail: but we cordially recommend his volume to the medical profession as one of great practical value, and amply repaying attentive study.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

Albrecht's (E.) Key to German Delectus, 12mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Alison's Europe, new ed. crown 8vo. 16s. cl.
Annual Register, Vol. LXXXVIII. 1846, 8vo. 16s. bds.
Barnes On the Book of Job, 12mo. 4s. 6d. cl.
Brees's (S. C.) Pictorial Illustrations of New Zealand, folio, 2l. 2s.
Bonar's (Rev. A. A.) Redemption Drawing Night, 12mo. 3s. cl.
Bonar's (Rev. H.) Night of Weeping, 13th thousand, 18mo. 2s. cl.
Cooper's (M. J.) New Guide to Knitting and Crochet, 2nd ed. 1s. cl.
Cowper's Works, ed. by Grimshaw, Vol. IV. new ed. royal 18mo. 3s.
Dumas' (A.) Marguerite de Valois, new ed. crown 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Evans's Law of Bribery at Elections, 12mo. 3s. bds.
Fergusson On the Ancient Topography of Jerusalem, imp. 8vo. 16s.
Findlay's (A. G.) Classical Atlas, Ancient Geography, 8vo. 12s. hf-bd.
Fables de la Fontaine, par Levizac, new ed. 12mo. 4s. 6d. bd.
Garbett's (Rev. J.) Christ on Earth, in Heaven, &c. 2 vols. 12mo. 12s.
Handel's 'The Messiah,' Pianoforte Edition, oblong, 6s. swd.
Haydn's 'The Creation,' Pianoforte Edition, oblong, 4s. 6d. swd.
Jesse's (J. H.) Literary and Historical Memorials of London, 2ls. cl.
Macchiavelli's History of Florence, and other Works, 3s. 6d. (Bohn.)
Military Services and Adventures in the Far East, 2 vols. 21s. cl.
Miller's (C. O.) Ancient Art and its Remains, 8vo. 14s. cl.
Naturalist's Lib. People's Ed. Vol. XXV. 'Whales, &c.' 12mo. 4s. 6d.
Naturalist's Lib. Vol. XXVI. 'Amphibious Carnivorous,' 4s. 6d. cl.
Natural History of Bores, by A. B. Reach, 18mo. 1s. swd.
Parlour Lib. Vol. VI. 'The Collegians,' by G. Griffin, 12mo. 1s. bds.
Prince of Peace; or, Truths for Young Disciples, 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
Reeve's Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Down, Connor, &c. 4to. 21s. cl.
Reynolds's (S. P.) Practical Arithmetic, new ed. 12mo. 2s. cl.
Russell's (Rev. A. T.) Christian Life, fc. 8vo. 5s. cl.
Sports, Pastimes, and Customs of London, 12mo. 6d. swd.
Standard Novels, CVIII. 'Ledbury's Adventures,' by A. Smith, 6s.
Thompson's (Dr. A.) Sacramental Catechism, 18mo. 3d. swd.
Wilson (Bishop) On the Lord's Supper, royal 32mo. 1s. cl.
Willm (J.) and Nichol's (J. P.) Education of the People, pt. 8vo. 6s. 6d.
Wright's Elector's Companion; or, Register for Returns, 12mo. 1s.

FOLK LORE.

Slavonic Folk-Lore.—The Rusalque.

ONE of your correspondents, in furnishing an interesting paper on the Nisses of Scandinavia, expressed a belief that occasional notices of Foreign Folk-Lore, by forming the groundwork of a comparative Popular Mythology, will materially tend to the increase of our knowledge on such subjects at home. If you agree in this feeling, will you accept my contribution in the form of a chapter culled from Bohemian sources, and put together for that purpose beneath the shadow of the Erzgebirge. Following the opinions of the ancient Slavonic writers, the Rusalque were aquatic deities, which they represented and adored, under the form of young and beautiful virgins with long hair, inhabiting the depths of the waters, especially the rivers and brooks. Proofs of the worship which the Slavonians rendered to the waters and to the beings which inhabited them, are found in the most ancient annals when writing of the Rusali feasts—an expression by which they designated, in the times of Paganism, days devoted to the adoration of the Rusalque; and which latter, under the empire of Christianity, became the Feast of Pentecost. You put a question in a former chapter of your Folk-Lore respecting our country wakes. I believe such notices as the present will yield an answer by showing how near a connexion subsists between some popular usages of the present day and pagan rites of a past age. I hope some day, ere your columns are closed to such communications, to forward to you a notice or two upon our Staffordshire Wakes.

Procopius, when speaking of the adoration of the Supreme Being, who, with the ancient Slaves was the cause of thunder, and the Master of the Universe, says:—"They adore also the rivers and the nymphs (*νυμφας*), as well as other divinities (*δαιμονα*) to whom they presented offerings." And although

in this passage there is no mention of the Rusalque, we perceive, nevertheless, that they adored streams, &c.,—or, as I have written above, the goddesses of the rivers called Rusalque, and whom Procopius had he written in Slavonic would have so designated. But the name of these fêtes we find in Balsarum, a commentator upon the acts of the Concilium Trullanum, where the feasts and games of the lower classes, under the name of Rusalia, are severely prohibited. Now, referring to Cosmos, the most ancient chronicler of Bohemia, pp. 10-197, it is evident that the games and fêtes celebrated during Pentecost, as described by him, are identical with the pagan usages of which other historians speak under the name Rusalje. Nestor, contemporary with Cosmos, (circa 1141) also alludes to the fact; and Karamzin (II. 66), in the Chronicle of Kiew, written towards the end of the 12th century, makes mention of the Rusalque week as falling in Pentecost. In the Russian book, also entitled Stohlan, which contains the ecclesiastical ordinances of the Council of Moscow (1551), the Rusalque games are forbidden and thus described:—"Men and women and girls assembled during the night, amusing themselves with conversation, games and dances. As soon as day appears, they rush with cries to the rivers, where they bathe." We also find the name of the same games in the old Russian vocabularies; where they are designated as indecent farces, detestable and diabolic, (skomorosaskrjaihry): and in the ecclesiastical rule which was promulgated at Moscow (circa 1121), there is mention made of a superstitious custom of the inhabitants of Little Russia, viz., hanging streamers of cloth and ribbon upon boughs and trees, especially oaks, which grew beside the sacred waters. I suppose I need not remind you of Lough Derg and other holy stations in Ireland, where, during a pattern, every thorn-bush would do credit to Rag Fair; but you will be surprised to learn, that the custom still exists under the name of a sacrifice to the Rusalques, or water-nymphs. We find the name also existing in many of the popular ballads of Little Russia and White Russia: and in Wallachia, where the language is a mixture of Gothic, Latin and Slavonic, the Feast of Pentecost is still called Rusalye;—the name of fêtes, originally Pagan, at last becoming the designation of a Christian feast:—and we might trace our own country wakes to a similar source,—thanks to the fusing process of the Church of Rome. We have proof, again, that the Rusalques were the river nymphs, in their name; which is derived from the old Slavonic word "Rusc," river, preserved amongst the Russians in the substantive Ruslo, signifying the bed of a river; and one of the most learned philologists, G. S. Bayers, says the words *ra rus* passed from languages the most learned and ancient to the Scythians and other people, and signified a river. In the Celtic the word *rus* signifies a lake; and the German word rüseln has a similar origin, perhaps. But although the Rusalques of the Bohemians find amongst other people a very cohort of sisters, such as the Nymphs of the Greeks and Romans,—especially the Naiads—the Nixen of the Germans, the Laclades of the Bretons, and the Ondine of the Franks, yet it is allowable to suppose that they were not naturalized merely, but indigenous. In no part, however, of Europe is the tradition of their existence become a more implicit belief than in Little and White Russia;—according to whose people they inhabit the rivulets of their forests, but abandon them on the Monday of Pentecost, to sojourn in the country until St. Peter's Day. They represent themselves as young girls of an elegant appearance: their hair, which, as sitting by the river banks they comb and arrange, is green, or ,according to some, long and black—a source of attraction to their victims—reminding one of the beautiful fancy in Boiardo,

> E' suoi capelli a sè sciolse di testa,
> Che n' avea molti la dama gioconda
> Ed, attracciato il cavalier, &c.

in the case of the Rusalque not "*con festa*." Their attire is a species of unzoned chemise:—but woe to those who approach them, fascinated by their appearance or their syren voices, for they are doomed—immediately, alas!—to be tickled to death,—as thus set forth in a popular song in Little Russia; which I now versify for your pages from the vernacular, the rhymes being my own:—

> Whither, pretty maiden, speeding?
> Fast the Rusalque treads behind thee;
> Thus her ruby message pleading,
> In the trust that she may bind thee—
> Riddles three
> She 's giving thee:—
>
> What without a root is growing?
> What without a bridle 's flowing?
> What without a flower 's blowing?
> Answer, maiden?—Still she flies.
>
> Without a root the stone upgrows,
> Without a stay the fountain flows,
> And fern without flower blows.
> The maiden sad
> No answer had.
> She *tickled* dies.

I will say very unjustly and Sphynx fashion. This, however, is the reason why the Russians, during the Pentecostal week, never respond to any voice which calls them in the forest. We find also upon the banks of the Dneiper, a wood named the Wood of the Rusalques, where women meet to exchange garlands, or flinging them on the water (another home custom) to test, by their swimming or sinking, the future current of their lives. In Little Russia, they also suspend streamers of ribbon or rags upon the trees by rivers or fountains to propitiate the Rusalques, that during the night they may not rob them of their hemp. Unthriving children (another home belief) are also considered as changed by the Rusalques. And babes which die unbaptized, are said, before Pentecost (the Rusalque fête), to run about on earth clapping their hands, and crying "Ho, ho! my mother has brought me into the world and abandoned me without baptism." How very like all this to the doings of the Kelpie Queen, who, ruling over the most obnoxious class of "good people" by virtue of a charter from King O'Donoghue, dated from his marine residence, some "fathoms deep" beneath Lough Leve, visits the shores of "sweet Killarney" upon the chance of adopting some newborn unbaptized babe into their sinful community. But this superstition is evidently posterior to Christianity. Many of the popular songs collected by Chodakowski have reference to these traditions.

The notions, however, which we have acquired respecting the water nymphs, &c. amongst the Slaves—mounting up into the dim obscure of the ancient mythology—are necessarily very vague. Nevertheless, we see, in present customs, much that recalls the past to an inquiring mind. Hence the real advantage of your papers on Folk Lore—as medals and coins elucidate dark points in a nation's history. So may those impressions on the popular feeling lead us through fiction up to truth.

I ought, perhaps, for the guidance of more zealous inquirers, to cite a few authors worthy of reference, on the subject of Slavonic Mythology:—'Essay upon Slavonic Mythology,' by A. de Kaysarow, Göttingen, 1804—M. Maksimovii Malowssyskija pjeoni, Moscow, 1827—J. M. Snjegiren, in the Journal Ujestrick Europy, 1827; and Marie Czemowska in the Almanack of Wilna, 1817. M.

Sedgley, Staffordshire.

To the authorities quoted by our Correspondent, it may be added that Grimm, in his 'Deutsche Mythologie,'s. 460, mentions an Essay on the 'Rusalky,' written by Schafarik, and printed in Casopis Cesk. Mus. 7, 259.

Souling.—Eve of All Souls.

S. J. B. is in error: All *Souls'* day is the 2nd, not the 1st of November, which is All *Saints'*. The practice he describes as having been prevalent in Shropshire doubtless was a remnant of a Roman superstition still in existence in the South of Europe, and which appears to have originated in the supposed efficacy of prayers and penances in releasing souls from purgatory. In Spain and Italy, on the occasion in question, alms are sought for masses for the souls of the departed; and in some parts of the latter country the people consider that if, on All Souls' day, they confine their meal to a mess of beans (horse-beans or *fave*, not *faggioli*), for every bean so eaten a soul is released from purgatory. In the present degenerate days, however,—like the pilgrim who boiled his peas,—instead of real beans they have sugar-plums made in the shape of beans; the costly compound of which substitute, and its satiating nature, cause, I fear, a great falling off in the annual release of souls. BACCELLO.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Naples.

Not having seen Pozzuoli for a year or so,—and being curious to ascertain what progress had been made in the excavations underneath the Amphitheatre,—I started, with a companion, one fine morning lately, in one of the picturesque caritellas which run between Naples and the former place. After having examined the Tempio di Nettuno and all the other remnants of antiquity worth examination, we visited the Amphitheatre; and I was much surprised to see the progress which had been made in the excavations. The passages and caverns beneath one-half of the edifice have for some time been completed; and already considerable advance has been made in clearing the other portion. Half imbedded in sand and pozzolana stood and lay broken shafts and capitals and statues which the workmen were about to restore to light.—However much had been done since last I visited the Amphitheatre, it is yet easy to see that the work progresses slowly. Nor can it be otherwise: since only ten men have been engaged on the excavations. A new appalto, however, was to be made very shortly, I was told—and then new hands were to be put on. So it is with everything at Naples. Nothing *is*, but ever *is to be*. Dimane dimane!—a word in every Italian's mouth—is always the appointed time for executing an affair. Passing near the monastery of the Capucins, where is preserved the wonderful stone which sweats the blood of San Gennaro thrice in every year, we entered. The stone is inclosed in the wall, with an iron grating before it; and is still further guarded by iron doors. Two monks accompanied us; and on my venturing a doubt as to the possibility of San Gennaro having been beheaded on this stone, there ensued a very edifying controversy between the two brethren as to the uses to which it had been applied—one asserting that the martyr had been beheaded on its edge, the other that the head had been received on it together with the blood. In whatever way this question may be determined is perhaps a matter of great indifference; but the fact of such a discussion arising between two monks, the guardians and exhibitors of the miraculous stone, is a very speaking commentary on the value of traditionary miracles. The stone itself, rough on the surface and of a porous character, has in every part of it gouts of dried blood—so as to merit the name of the Sweating Stone; and these gouts are distilled at the very moment when the blood of San Gennaro is liquefied at Naples. "Two of your countrymen," said one of the monks, "placed themselves, not a fortnight since, one at Naples the other at Pozzuoli, with their watches set exactly to the same moment;—and they justified what I now tell you. Next day they changed, one coming from Naples to Pozzuoli and the other going from Pozzuoli to Naples;—the result was the same." What could I answer to all this?—of course I had nothing to do but acknowledge the saintship of the martyr.

Leaving the monastery—which, by-the-by, was far more interesting to me from the external loveliness of its position, commanding a view of the gulf and coast of Baiæ, Misenum, Procida and Ischia—we returned to Pozzuoli; crossing the remains of the old Via Appia, by which the Apostle Paul travelled to Rome. The antiquities in the neighbourhood have lately had considerable light thrown upon them by Il Canonico Giovanni Scherillo—a learned priest who resides at Pozzuoli. Through a common friend, I had the fortune to make his acquaintance; and he presented me with a little treatise elucidating a discovery of some interest which he has made. It relates to the journey of Eneas to the Infernal Regions and to Elysium. Il Canonico Iovio, a learned Neapolitan antiquary, published a work some time since, entitled 'Viaggio do Enea all' Inferno ed agli Elisi secondo Virgilio;' in which he identifies all the localities with the description of the poet—with one remarkable exception, however, at the beginning of the journey. The reason is, according to Scherillo, that the cavern of which the poet avails himself in his description has up to the present time been unknown. Now, our Canon lays claim to the discovery of this cavern; and has published a little work to show that he has found out *every* point of Virgil's description. "It is clear," says he, "that the Sibyl, in leading Eneas to the Infernal Regions, intro-

duced him first into the cavern discovered by me,—which is the same described by Virgil; and thus from Cumæ leads him to Avernus. By another grotto she leads him from Avernus to Lucrinus—which is the one usually exhibited as the Sibyl's Cave." In conclusion, the Canon maintains that these two grottos were subterraneous roads, communicating between Cumæ and Avernus (which was a considerable port) and that and Lucrinus; and urges the great benefit which would accrue to commerce could these grottos be applied to their original purposes. The theory of Scherillo is very plausible—nay probable; and in exposing it he has brought together much curious matter. Appended to this little work is another by the same author; in which he inquires how it is that Baiæ, which is now so decidedly unhealthy, was chosen by the Romans as one of their pleasure-sites. His argument is, that, though during the time of Cicero there were slight indications of the existence of malaria, yet that during the best days of Cumæ, and later from the time of Augustus, the whole of the region was essentially healthy: that under the Cumani, the Lakes of Avernus and Lucrinus were ports which, being considerably enlarged and improved, under Augustus, were known by the name of the Porto Giulio. In like manner, the Canon maintains that the Maremorto under the Cumani as well as under the emperors was a port; thus removing every cause of existing malaria—and leaving Baiæ and the neighbourhood a fit site for the luxurious retreat of the masters of the world. The questions agitated in this little pamphlet are curious in a classical and antiquarian point of view—and interested me much. So that at the close of a delightful spring day, I returned to Naples well satisfied with my gleanings.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

The fourth annual meeting of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland commenced on Thursday in St. Andrew's Hall—the Town Hall of the fine old cathedral city of Norwich. The first meeting was at Canterbury—the second at Winchester, and the third at York. This, in many respects, is the best meeting the Institute has yet had. The elections have not interfered so much as had been expected—and the Archæological Institute, in spite of the heat and turmoil of a contested one, has attracted almost as much notice as it sought. The meeting was opened by the Marquis of Northampton, who introduced the new president, the Bishop of Norwich, to his fellow members; and the Bishop promised the Institute a cordial reception in his own town. When the "academy of compliments" was over, the meeting proceeded to business: and Rev. Joseph Hunter read 'An Essay on Topography.' This is perhaps the best paper which Mr. Hunter has yet written; and we may probably give some extracts from it in our report of the proceedings next week. The last of the Whifflers then entered the Hall; and performed their evolutions with all their wonted activity, though they have now been out of practice for many years. Norwich was the last city which maintained its Whifflers—a very prominent part of a mayoralty procession; and there is much reason to believe that when this worthy couple are removed, the art of whiffling (if we may use the word) will perish with them. The business of the Whifflers was to clear the way before the procession. They acted as pioneers to the civic show; and if yesterday was a good example of their cunning, they could play their swords well and clear a mob of drunken and half-drunken voters most cleverly before them. On leaving the Hall, they preceded the Bishop and the Master of Trinity:—somewhat incongruously certainly; but still it was something to get these worthies out in their old mayoralty attire. The afternoon's excursion was to Caistor Camp; and Sir John Boileau enacted the living handbook of the place. The streets and roads in and about Norwich were so dusty with the carriages and carts of voters that it was a real luxury to escape from among them and get to pleasant pastures and old Roman walls. Afterwards, the Bishop had a full table of antiquaries to dinner—and Sir John Boileau another table of them at his mansion at Kettringham, near Wymondham—whither the Institute is going on its way to Ely. In the evening, there was a conversazione in the Public Library; when a paper by Mr. Hudson Gurney, addressed to Mr. Dawson Turner, was read by Mr. Albert Way. It was a curious paper, with the recommendation of being short and to the point;—and we shall probably give some portion of it next week. Yesterday, at twelve, Prof. Willis was to deliver his discourse on Norwich Cathedral;—and at two the temporary museum of the Institute would be opened in the Swan Inn. The influx of members—from London and Cambridge, especially—has induced the removal of the architectural section from the Guildhall to St. Andrew's Hall, where the Professor can be heard to greater advantage. "I wish," says our correspondent, "I could tell you something about the Museum—but I have as yet only had a cursory glance. All the curiosities of Norwich and its neighbourhood seem concentrated here. Among the chief contributors I observed Lord Hastings, Lord Stafford, Lady Suffield of Blickling, Sir John Boileau, Mr. Hudson Gurney, Rev. James Bulwer, C. J. Palmer, Esq., of Yarmouth, Seth Stevenson, Esq., Robert Fitch, Esq., and Goddard Johnson, Esq.—and among the chief curiosities, a silver gilt cup, date about 1600, formerly the property of the Friars' Society of Norwich, exhibited by Mr. Hudson Gurney; the chimney-piece (temp. James I.) from the parlour of Sir Thomas Brown, who lived in the Haymarket here; pair of embroidered dress gloves, given by Queen Elizabeth to the cousin of Sir John Astley; a mass of chain mail, possibly a hauberk of the fourteenth century, found imbedded in the chalk basin of the Seine, in the excavations for the Paris and Rouen Railway; the rowelled spur remains imbedded in the mass—an example perfectly unique and beyond price; the buff coat, under-vest, and embroidered belt worn by Jacob, Lord Astley, of Reading, Serjeant-Major of the forces under Charles I.; the dirk of the Earl of Balmerino; a tray of gold rings, exhibited by Mr. Fitch; and a most curious fourteenth century casket with ivory carvings, belonging to Mr. Seth Stevenson of this place." Our reporter adds, that the architectural notes of the churches and other ancient buildings of the city and neighbourhood of Norwich have just been issued gratuitously to the members—that the weather is fine—and that every one is in excellent humour, anxious to learn and willing to communicate.

We must not omit a few words to mention the death of Mr. Walter of Bearwood, which took place in Printing-house Square on Wednesday last. His claims to notice are not of the kind which the *Athenæum* ordinarily meddles with; but as the founder of a great literary power, and mixed up with literary interests in many senses if not especially in ours, we could not suffer the event which closes a long career of the kind to pass unrecorded.

The planet announced in the daily papers as the discovery of M. Henke has, we find from the Astronomical Society's Monthly Notice, been observed by MM. Schumacher, Hind, Encke, Challis, and Lassell. Mr. Hind has computed approximate elements as follows:

Epoch of mean anomaly 1847, July 0, Greenwich mean time	283°	56′	54″
Longitute of perihelion	8	17	24
Ascending node	137	23	35
Inclination	15	2	56
Excentricity	·238910		
Mean diurnal motion	886″·0778		
Sidereal period	4·004 years.		

Thus the new planet comes between Vesta and M. Henke's other planet, Astræa. We have not heard of any proposed name for it. We should suggest Proserpine, merely from a feeling of fairness towards the infernal powers, who are at present absolutely unrepresented.—In 1600 *seven* bodies were known to belong to our system,—the Sun and Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn. In 1700 there had been added *eleven*,—namely, four satellites of Jupiter, five of Saturn, the Earth itself, which was now fully recognized as a planet, and Halley's comet, though the prediction had not been verified. In 1800 there had been added *nine*,—namely, Uranus and six satellites, with two satellites of Saturn. William Herschel left the solar system half as large again, in number of bodies, as he found it. Since 1800 there have been added *nine*,—namely, Vesta, the one yet unchristened, Astræa, Juno, Ceres, Pallas, Neptune, Encke's comet, and Biele's comet. If Mr. Lassell should be right in what he suspects to be a satellite of Neptune, for *nine* we must read *ten*.

The *South Australian Gazette*, of the 5th March, has the following; which gives a promise of precious stones figuring amongst the mineral treasures of that colony:—"Mr. Paxton has just returned from the Burra Burra Mine, with one or two more magnificent specimens than ever. We have just had the pleasure of examining one of them. It is almost pure copper; and one spot exhibits crystals which are said to be rubies. We are not lapidary sufficient to pronounce as to the value of the stones; but the amazing richness of the copper ore we can freely vouch for. It is said to be in the ordinary abundance of this great mine, where a lode must be two or three feet wide at least, to attract notice.—Speaking of colonial products, we may mention a report which has been made to the government of Algiers on the subject of a lichen spread over a large portion of the Sahara and the upper plateaux of the south,—said to be as nourishing as the manna of the Hebrews,—and which formed a large resource in the late campaign.

After a silence of fifty years, the volcano of the island of Fogo, in the Cape de Verds, has startled the place from its propriety, and driven the inhabitants from their cultivated grounds in its own neighbourhood. Torrents of burning lava issuing suddenly from its seven mouths have overwhelmed the cattle and plantations,—and brought unlooked-for destitution on the colonists who, seduced by the long immunity of the island, had invested their hopes and labours in the dangerous vicinity.

The annual public meeting of the French Academy was held in Paris on the 22nd inst. for the distribution of its prizes. M. Villemain, as usual, read the report on the literary awards. M. Thierry still holds the greater Gobert prize against the world; and the 'History of the Reign of Louis XIII.' is still repaid by the smaller. The Monthyon prizes for works useful to the cause of morals were given to M. Cauchy for his work, *Le Duel considéré dans son Origine*—M. de Cormenin for his *Entrétiens de Village*—and to a variety of others of minor productions. Among the rest, M. Jules Sandeau has a prize for his novel of *Madeleine*.—The prize poem on the Discovery of Steam was awarded to M. Amédée Pommier—and recited by M. Ancelot.—M. de Tocqueville had the more difficult task of reporting on the Prizes of Virtue—that is, awarding the money value of good actions, and holding up the Respectabilities as exceptional cases worthy of their hire. He seemed to feel that the subject was a difficult one for the orator to handle: and accordingly made his report in a dry, ledger form, of which the periodical reporters upon *him*—who love a little more excitement—think it necessary to complain.

We mentioned not long since that the municipality of Weimar had made the purchase of the house in which the poet Schiller resided, and determined to preserve it as a public treasure. A further resolution has been come to in the matter—which may serve as a hint in the matter of the Shakspeare property, about, we have little doubt, to come into the hands of the nation. It is intended to restore and furnish the apartment which the poet principally occupied exactly as it was in Schiller's life-time—and many articles belonging to him have been already contributed for the purpose. In the case of Shakspeare we have not the means of attaining to this technical reality; but whatever future destination the amount of funds collected shall enable the public to give to the monument, something like a conjectural restoration to the probable condition of the interior when Shakspeare was there a living presence] is an obvious feature of any scheme.—We are glad to see that the movement in enforcement of this national purchase increases as the time for the transfer of the property approaches. The Archæological Association have had a meeting at Warwick, for the purpose of endeavouring to arrive at some definitive arrangement on the subject; and agreed, in the right archæological spirit, to co-operate with the Stratford Shaksperian Club and seek the assistance of the Archæological Institute of London. Two days afterwards, the bodies in question met the inhabitants of Stratford-upon-Avon; and a joint resolution was unanimously agreed upon to prevent if possible the chance of destruction to the matchless monument. It was stated at the Archæological Meeting that the Royal Shaksperian Club had for some time contemplated the purchase of the property, and had organized a private guarantee fund towards that object. In London—which must

be the centre of any sufficient action—we are glad to see that our hint has not been thrown away. The Museum Club is to meet at 2 o'clock this day for the purpose of originating a subscription and organizing a movement, in which the other learned and literary bodies will be solicited to unite. Miss Martineau has addressed a letter to the people, through the columns of *The People's Journal*—whose editor has obligingly forwarded to us an early proof. She suggests as we have already done, for some further reason than she gives—that "it is necessary to buy not only the small portion of the house which is shown to strangers as Shakspeare's abode, but the whole of the buildings which originally belonged to it. And it is desirable to purchase also some surrounding buildings, in order to isolate the precious dwelling and save it from fire." Her suggestion is, that the property shall be made national in the most extended sense—being bought by a penny subscription amongst the people. There is, we fear, scarcely time to organize such a machinery to a sufficient issue; and we trust the matter will not be left to chances so minute—though agreeing with Miss Martineau in the *universality* of right and interest which gives its meaning to her scheme. Besides, our own views go further than a sum raised by such means only would be likely to effect; and we have seen a suggestion—we are not certain where—which we think more to the purpose. It proposes that the sum needed might be raised by a guinea subscription; conferring on each subscriber a proprietorship to the extent of his share, and the right of voting for the election of the custodian who might be appointed as the holder of the great national prize to be conferred in the manner which we mentioned last week. There are other particulars of the same suggestion with which we cannot agree:—but all these various signs and rumours help to assure us that the feeling is abroad which will prevent the house of Shakspeare from ever passing away to the stranger or becoming the prey of the speculator.—We should say, that Miss Martineau announces the fact of Lord Morpeth's having written to the Stratford Committee to say that the Woods and Forests department will accept the charge of preserving the house if it be once bought.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS. The THIRTEENTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION, NOW OPEN at their GALLERY, FIFTY-THREE, PALL MALL, WILL CLOSE THIS DAY.—Admission, 1s.; Catalogue, 6d. J. FAHEY, Secretary.

ST. MARK'S, VENICE.

DIORAMA, REGENT'S PARK.—NOW OPEN, with a new and highly interesting Exhibition, representing the INTERIOR OF ST. MARK'S, at VENICE, justly considered one of the most magnificent temples in the Christian world; and a VIEW of TIVOLI, near ROME, with the Cascades, &c. The picture of St. Mark's is painted by M. Diosse (pupil of M. Daguerre), from drawings made on the spot expressly for the Diorama by the late M. Renoux. The View of Tivoli is painted by M. Bouton. Both pictures exhibit various novel and striking effects of light and shade. Open from Ten till Six.—Admittance, Saloon, 1s.; Stalls, 2s.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—COLLINS'S ODE on the PASSIONS will be recited by Mr. J. RUSSELL, with Illustrations in a Series of Drawings magnified by means of the Opaque Microscope, accompanied by Music by Dr. Wallis, on the Mornings of Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and on the Evenings of Tuesday and Thursday. Dr. Bachhoffner's Lectures on Natural Philosophy will comprise the subject of the Electric Telegraphs, &c. Chemical Lectures by H. M. Noad, Esq., on the Evenings of Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The beautiful Optical Effects include the last Dissolving Views, Diving Bell and Diver, with Experiments, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price.

SOCIETIES

BRITISH ASSOCIATION.—SECTION F.—We gave in our general Report of the proceedings at Oxford a very short abstract of the following paper read in Section F. by Col. Sykes, on Tuesday, the 29th of June:—but as the information which it contains may be valuable in future seasons of dearth, we are induced to report it at greater length.

Prices of the Cerealea and other Edibles of India and England compared. By Col. Sykes, Vice-President of the Royal Society.—The author's chief object was to show that India in cases of dearth in England could be looked to with confidence for a supply of bread stuffs—and India having the advantage of its principal crops ripening in January and February, the moment a failure of the crop should be known in England in August, orders for supplies from the following January crops of India could be sent, and the supplies landed in England even by the route of the Cape of Good Hope two or three months before the ripening of the crops in England. Colonel Sykes furnished averaged prices for years from various parts of India; but he enumerates very many grains, cheap, nutritive, and in general consumption, which do not appear in the price lists, and whose names even are unknown in Europe, except to the learned. The first price list gives an average from 1827 to 1845 at seven markets in the Deccan under the Bombay Presidency. The ultimate result is shown in the following table:—

	Avoirdupois weight of Grain for 2s.	Price per Quarter, English.
	lb. oz.	
Wheat	64 5	14/11
Rice	36 13	$\frac{7}{16}$d. per lb.
Grain	60 5	15/11
Bajra	82 10	11/7
Iowaree	100 8	9/6

Now these 100 lb. weight of Iowaree, for two shillings, are sufficient for the support of a man for two months at the least. But in 1828 and 1843, at the market of Kullus, the average price of Iowaree was 204 lb. for two shillings, or more than 2 lb. for a farthing; so that in those years a man could live for less than a farthing per diem for meat. Col. Sykes gives various other tables of prices at fifty-three military stations in Bengal, in Goojost, &c.—particularly one from the Saugor and Nerbudda territories from 1831 to 1840, and from 1843 to 1846. In 1843 wheat sold at 167 lb. avoirdupois for two shillings; and at seven markets enumerated, the price per quarter English varied only from five shillings and sixpence to six shillings and eightpence. The Bengal tables, independently of the bread stuffs, gave the prices of beef, mutton, fowls, salt, sugar, &c. From these it appeared that at some places a bullock could be bought for ten shillings, a sheep for one shilling, and twenty fowls for two shillings. Salt varied exceedingly in price, from 5¾ lb. for two shillings at Calcutta, to 49¼ lb. at Cuttack, the averages being 20 lb. 9 oz. for two shillings. The Government sold the monopoly salt at from 20½ lb. to 25 lb. for two shillings; and a curious fact was elicited from the tables,—that out of the limits of Bengal Proper and beyond Allahabad, the retail price of salt was lower than the *wholesale* Government price; the wholesale price of Cuttack salt being 20½ lb. and the retail price out of Bengal Proper 23¾ lb., showing that there must be sources of supply independent of the Government monopoly salt. At a labourer's wages of six shillings per mensem, a third of a month's wages would supply him with a sufficiency of salt at the different stations varying from three months in Calcutta to thirty-five months at Kheir, in the Deccan, and forty-five months in Bombay.

The following Table exhibits the final results.

	Wheat.		Rice.		Grain.		Flour.	Peas or Dhall.		Iowaree.		Bajra.		Sugar per Cwt.	Salt per Cwt.
	lb. for 2s.	Per Quarter	lb. for 2s.	Per Cwt.	lb. for 2s.	Per Quarter.	lb. for 2s.	lb. for 2s.	Per Qr.	lb. for 2s.	Per Qr.	lb. for 2s.	Per Qr.		
London, Nov. 6th, 1846..	17	57/	$10\frac{4}{32}$	22/	..	..	11	19	52/	..	..	..	..	53/ 50/ 49/ 45/	..
Ditto June 1st, 1847.	9·4	102/	9·1	24/6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto June 18th — ..	10½	92/2	10·9 to 6·6	34/ to 20/6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 9 to 2 4½
Bengal, 1845 and 1846 ..	57½	16/8	25 to 45	5/ to 9/	$65\frac{5}{7}$	14/7	31	40½	23/6	..	..	..	..	33/	9/ to 10/11
Deccan, averages of years	64¼	14/11	36⅞	6/1	60½	15/11	..	..	..	100½	9/6	$62\frac{10}{16}$	11/7	..	3/1
Saugor ditto	143 to 174	5/6 to 6/8	34 to 76	2/11 to 6/5	77 to 234	4/1 to 2/5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nagpoor ditto	60¼ to 113	8/6 to 15/10	35½ to 66	3/4 to 6/4	$73\frac{4}{7}$	13/10	..	60	16	..	..	..	..	..	18/
Goojrat ditto	23½ to 73	13/2 to 40/	$28\frac{5}{7}$ to 71	3/2 to 8/9	$22\frac{4}{7}$ to $51\frac{5}{7}$	17/7 to 42/6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hoshingabad ditto	40 to 192	5/ to 23/10	35 to 68	3/3½ to 6/5	65 to 269	3/7 to 14/9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bombay, July 1845	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2/2½
London, 1836 to 1847	..	..	..	..	..	..	$18\frac{2}{31}$ to 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

The prices in Goojrat are those of a year of great scarcity, 1846.

ASTRONOMICAL.—*June* 11.—Capt. W. H. Smyth, R.N. V.P., in the chair.—The Rev. J. Edmondston, the Rev. J. Barton, and A. C. Key, Commander R.N., were elected Fellows.

'Discovery of a New Planet by M. Henke, of Dresden.' 'Observations,' by Prof. Schumacher, Mr. Hind, Prof. Challis, and Mr. Lassell.

'Observations of Neptune.' By Prof. Challis.

'Ephemeris of Neptune for Greenwich Mean Midnight.' By Mr. Adams.

'Observations of Astræa. By M. Rümker.

'Elements of the Binary Star γ Virginis.' By Mr. Hind.

'Ephemeris of γ Virginis.' By Mr. Hind.

'Observations on Hind's Second Comet;' and, 'Elements,' by Mr. W. W. Boreham.

'Observations on Colla's Comet.' By Prof. Littrow, Prof. Santini, M. Rümker and MM. Bishop and Hind; and 'Elements,' by Mr. Hind, M. d'Arrest and M. Quirling.

'Sweeping Ephemeris for the expected Comet of 1264 and 1556, on three hypotheses of the time of Perihelion Passage.' From Mr. Hind's tables in the 'Monthly Notice for April, 1847.'

'On the Opinion of Copernicus with respect to the Light of the Planets.' By Prof. De Morgan.

'Notice of a Letter from Mr. Maclear, daterd fom the Kamies Berg, Cape of Good Hope.'

'On an Improvement in Tables of Proportional Logarithms.' By Mr. Drach.

'On the Formation and Application of Fine Metallic Wires to Optical Instruments.' By Mr. Ulrich.

'On the Properties of Rock as a Foundation of the Piers of Meridian Instruments, with an Account of the Detection of a hitherto unsuspected cause of Error in the Edinburgh Transit.' By Prof. C. P. Smyth.

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—*June* 29.—Sir J. Rennie, President, in the chair.

'On the Advantages and Economy of maintaining a high degree of Cleanliness in Roads and Streets, with an Account of the Construction of the Street-sweeping Machine.' By Mr. J. Whitworth.

'An Account of the Sea Defences of Romney Marsh, commonly known by the name of Dymchurch Wall, and the probable Origin of the Marsh itself, or the Manner in which it was reclaimed from the Sea.' By J. Elliot, jun., the Resident Engineer.—Romney Marsh properly so called, forms a triangle, the base of which would be a line drawn from Romney to Appledore, and the apex at Hythe, and comprises about 24,000 acres. It is probable that this marsh was caused in the first instance by the formation of a natural barrier of shingle nearly where Dymchurch Wall now stands,—by which the sea was excluded;

and that the first artificial works were executed by the Romans, when they held possession of the country. They consisted of the erection of cross walls running from the natural barrier ("the Full") to the hills, at the base of which the ancient river Limene ran. The chief of these (the Rhee Wall) ran nearly in a straight line from Romney to Appledore; and it was at that spot where probably the main work was performed. Upon the supply of shingle from the west being cut off by the extraordinary accumulation at Dungeness Point, the natural barrier at Dymchurch gradually became weakened; and it was necessary to take some steps to prevent its total destruction. The first measure adopted was the erection of an inland wall at some little distance at the back of "the Full;" and afterwards the construction of large stone groins on the front or sea side, at right angles to the line of coast, in order to increase the deposit of shingle. However, as the supply of shingle gradually decreased on account of the constant movement to the eastward,—and as all that escaped in that direction was permanently lost,—these means were found insufficient; and a system of "arming" with brushwood and timber piling was adopted. This was found to answer the purpose for a considerable period; but it also in the course of time gradually became insufficient;—and it was found necessary at length, after numerous experiments, to adopt a stone facing with an average slope of about 8 to 1, up to high water-mark, gradually increasing in steepness from that point and terminating with a curve of 7 feet radius. The stones, which were laid in a bed of concrete where they were most affected by the waves, were of different sizes averaging from 18 to 6 inches in depth—the largest of them being in the middle, where the greatest wear and tear took place, and at which point rows of sheet piling were also driven for additional security. This plan was adopted by the author after mature deliberation on the Reports of Mr. Rennie and Mr. Walker, and a very careful examination of the locality. Part of the wall has now been standing for ten years—and has required a very trifling amount of repair; while the annual expense has been reduced from 10,000*l.* to 4,000*l.*, with every prospect of a still further reduction being effected—as upwards of two-thirds of the work is now permanently completed.

'On Ocean Steam Navigation.' By Capt. Henderson.

The following candidates were elected, Messrs. T. Cini, F. Swanwick, and J. Scott Russell, Members, and W. Brown, A. Williams, O. C. D. Ross, and Capt. D. O'Brien, Associates.

The meeting was adjourned until the second Tuesday in January, 1848.

Institute of British Architects.—*June* 28.—C. Fowler, V.P., in the chair.—A communication was read from Mr. Sidney Smith, relative to the singular features in the Architecture represented on the bas-reliefs lately brought from Nimroud.—Mr. S. Angell read a Sketch of the Professional Life of the late George Dance, the Architect, R.A.

Dr. Bromet exhibited Sketches of Continental Churches.

A Model of a Chinese Chemist's House and Shop belonging to T. Morson, Esq. was placed on the table for inspection.

The chairman presented the premiums to the successful candidates in the students' class:—To Mr. W. Boutcher, for the best sketches of designs from subjects given monthly by the Council, and for the best notes made by him of papers read at the ordinary general meetings of the Institute during the session: and to Mr. S. J. Nicholl for his notes of papers read.

Society of Arts.—*June* 9.—G. Moore, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—The Secretary described Capt. Carter's new method of suspending a knapsack. The improvement consists in the addition of two small pieces of iron to span the body, and which are fixed to the bottom of the knapsack by means of a screw and nut. The straps which fix the knapsack pass over the shoulder and are hooked on to the irons, and thus a greater freedom of the use of the arms is admitted; while the belt which usually crosses the chest being removed and placed below the true ribs, the injury caused by the confinement of the lungs is thus got rid of.

'On the Manufacture of the Sheet and Patent Plate Glass, as practised at the St. Helen's Crown, Sheet, and Patent Glass Company, St. Helen's, Lancashire,' by Mr. Deacon.—The process consists in blowing out the glass in the ordinary manner into the form of a large glass bottle. It is then brought into a form almost cylindrical, and split and distended by means of heat, and formed into a flat sheet.

'On his Process for rendering all soft and porous Stone hard and impermeable, and also for varying the Colours of the same,' by Mr. Seychenne.—The process employed consists in drying the stones in a heated apartment until all dampness is evaporated. The stone is then cut in the form designed. Coppers are constructed in a manner adapted for being heated by fire or steam; and these contain the composition and stone to be hardened. The composition employed is coal tar, fine sand, asphaltum, resinous and bituminous substances and mineral caoutchouc, vegetable resin, gums, oils, iron filings, carbonate and silicate of lime, granite stone (in powder), carbonate of lead, coarse clay, ochre, and other mineral earths and salts. This composition is to be boiled with the stones several hours.

'On Mr. Millichamp's Patent Carriage Axle.'—The peculiarity consists in the addition of a screw being cut in the solid on the arm of the axle, and a corresponding screw in the box—which when the wheel is turned round passes a little beyond the screw, and will be secure from getting off, though the ordinary collet and nuts should be altogether gone; and thus the carriage will travel on with perfect safety.

'On his Ebullition Alcohol Meter,' by Dr. Ure.—The new apparatus consists of a spirit lamp inclosed in a vessel of water to keep the spirit cool; above the lamp is a small cylinder into which the fluid to be tested is put; when near the boiling point a thermometer of very long range is introduced; and when the mercury becomes stationary the boiling point is read off.

The last communication read was 'On the Domestic Uses of Gas,' by A. Angus Croll.

Asiatic.—*June* 19.—Prof. Wilson in the chair.—N. Bland, Esq., read a paper 'On Eastern Chess, illustrated from Persian and Arabic MSS. in the Library of the British Museum, and of the Asiatic Society.' The object was chiefly to prove that the great chess (commonly attributed to Timur) was not the invention of that conqueror, but the original and perfect form from which the modern chess was derived. Mr. Bland combated also the received opinion of the Indian origin of chess; and supported the assertion of a Persian author, that it was originally invented in Persia, and thence taken to India—where it was abridged and reduced to its present form. A model of the large board of chess—of a hundred and twelve squares—was exhibited; and the rules of that curious game were described,—as well as those of some other varieties, not noticed in Hyde's 'Dissertation on Eastern Games.'—Dr. Royle made some observations on a number of specimens of gums, resins, dyes, &c., principally from the coast of Africa, but consigned to Aden as an entrepôt; which had been recently sent to the President of the Society by Dr. Malcolmson, of that settlement.—The Society adjourned till November.

Zoological.—*July* 27.—W. Yarrell, V.P., in the chair.—The following papers were communicated:—

A note 'On an Anomalous Arrangement of the Circulation in *Crocodilus lucius*,' by E. Fry.—'Additional Observations on British Cetacea,' by J. E. Gray, Esq., chiefly founded on specimens in the Edinburgh University Museum; one of which appears distinct from, though very nearly allied to, *Physalus Antiquorum*. If such prove the fact, it may be distinguished as *Physalus borealis*. In the anatomical collection there are a skeleton and soft parts of a Bottlenosed Whale from Orkney, of a species described by Rusch as *Delphinus leucopleurus*, and figured in the 'Zoology of the Erebus and Terror' as *Lagenorhynchus leucopleurus*, which is a most interesting addition to the British Fauna.—Mr. Gray also described a new species of Chitonidæ.—Mr. A. White described several new species of Crustacea; beautiful figures of which were exhibited.

A large collection of bird skins from Upper Scinde, presented to the Society by Lieut. B. Burgess, was laid before the Meeting:—which, on the conclusion of the business, adjourned to November.

Entomological.—*May* 3.—Mr. A. Ingpen, V.P., in the chair.—Mr. F. Smith exhibited a queen and drone of the hive-bee which had been taken together, paired.—Mr. Douglas exhibited specimens illustrating the natural history of two small moths—*Talæporia cembrella* and *Incurvaria masculella*.—A note was read from Mr. E. Doubleday announcing the discovery recently made by him of an apparatus in an exotic moth similar to the drums of the Cicadæ.—Some notes were read from Mr. Spence on the honey bees of Brazil, and on an insect which attacks the cotton crops of North America.—Mr. Saunders communicated some particulars relative to the sudden appearance of vast numbers of minute caterpillars (mis-termed a blight) of a species of Tortrix, which infests the leaves of the pear, during the occurrence of a hazy wind from the north-east, two days after a very hot day.

June 7.—Mr. Spence, President, in the chair.—Mr. Evans presented specimens of *Lophyrus Pini*—a very rare saw-fly, which he had reared from larvæ that fed on the Scotch fir, occasionally injuring it very considerably. A number of new and beautiful exotic insects from Africa, Ceylon, and India were exhibited by Capt. Parry, Dr. Templeton, and Col. Hearsey; and Mr. S. Stevens exhibited specimens of *Mamestra nigricans* in its different states. Specimens of the cochineal insect were presented by Mr. Westwood; who also exhibited a potato plant attacked by the prevailing disease, for the purpose of proving that it occurs independently either of infection in the parent tuber, or of the attacks of aphides. He also exhibited a species of Poduridæ, remarkable for not possessing the power of leaping. Also specimens of apple blossom destroyed by the Apple Weevil, as well as illustrations of the natural history of the minute midge which burrows into the young shoots of willows. He exhibited from Mr. Weaver (by whom they were collected in Perthshire) specimens of the very rare *Ctenophora atrata*.—A paper by Mr. J. E. Gray, containing the description of *Cheirotonus Parrii*, was read. Also some notes by Mr. Spence on *Chelura terebrans*—a crustacean, which burrows into the woodwork of submarine erections; and on the occurrence of the larva of *Helophilus pendulus* within the spine of a horse.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon. Royal Institution, 2.—Monthly Meeting.
Thur. Zoological Society, 3.—General Business.
Fri. Botanical Society, 8.

FINE ARTS

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Paris and its Environs. By W. Parrott.—In a series of tinted lithographs the artist has given some of the best points of the French metropolis. The view of the 'Place de la Concorde,' with its obelisk and fountains, is a sad commentary on Trafalgar Square, its basins and its column. The 'Vue du Marché des Innocents vers la Rue St. Denis' is picturesque in arrangement;—the fountain in its centre forming a good culminating point in the composition. 'Les Jardins des Tuileries au 1er Mai' is sunny and gay. The 'Vue sur la Seine prise du Pont de la Concorde,' exhibiting the Bateau-à-Vapeur conducting a party to St. Cloud, is light and aërial. The 'Vue de la Porte St. Denis et des Boulevards' shows this crowded thoroughfare with the appropriate incident of the arrival of the Calais diligence. The view of Notre Dame from the south confirms our old impression when looking at the reality—that in the picturesque it must yield to our own Abbey of Westminster. 'Père la Chaise' is hero as coldly classical, insipid, and artificial as the scene itself. The 'Luxembourg' is presented in all the Italian-looking taste of the Medici connexion. The general view of Paris, with Montmartre seen on the left, gives a good idea of the winding of the Seine by the village of Meudon. Altogether, the views are well selected and drawn with care, and the incidents are appropriate and interesting.

Portrait of Jenny Lind. By T. Allemand. Drawn on stone by C. Wildt.—This portrait gives more of the general air and deportment of the great *cantatrice* than of her individuality of physiognomy. It has modesty and refinement of expression—and so far is true. The head and shoulders are tolerably drawn. The least successful part of the work is its manipulation on the stone.

The Dried Well. By Henry Warren. Chromo-lithographed by J. R. Dicksee.—One of Mr. Warren's Oriental subjects—in which his success is the more remarkable that he has never been a traveller in the East. The disappointment and anguish of the Arab who, reaching with his faithful camel the long hoped-for reservoir, finds it exhausted, is excellently expressed—as are the suffering and thirst of the animal. The effect of these is heightened by the hot and arid look imparted to the whole.

La Madonna della Torre, from a Picture by Raphael. Engraved in line by W. H. Watt.—It is rarely now, amid the rage for the lithographs and mezzotints which crowd our shop windows and portfolios, that we get sight of the work of the graver from a native professor—sporting subjects, animals and *tableaux de genre* having for years usurped the position which the art of engraving in its palmy days maintained. It is pleasant, then, to meet with an effort in the right direction. If we were disposed to be critical, we might say that in the endeavour to translate faithfully the delicacy of his author the engraver's rendering of the lines in his flesh wants decision and force. Their arrangement is good—calculated to express the parts, either as to construction or grace. A want of clearness in the touch is the fault:—one, however, on the safe side, and infinitely more in good taste than a sacrifice by the engraver of his subject to an ostentatious display of his own mechanical means; in which case the sharpness, symmetry, and clearness of the lines are apt to result in metallic hardness rather than in yielding and pulpy flesh. Mr. Watt's print, then, is more refined than forcible; but a valuable addition for the collectors of Italian art. That the attribution of the original picture or cartoon to Raphael is disputed ground, is no subject for discussion in a notice of Mr. Watt's work.

Chapel in the Ancient Palace of Croydon. Drawn and lithographed by W. Trask.—A very picturesque interior, with a pulpit of Elizabethan construction. The artist has evidently had in his mind the treatment of Mr. Nash in such matters—in more than one particular.

The Venerable Archdeacon Thorpe, Warden of Durham University. Engraved by G. R. Ward, from the picture by J. R. Swinton.—But for some ability on the engraver's part in the scraping of the mezzotint, we should fain have been silent on this publication. All the deficiencies which want of education implies, are visible in the more artistic portions. Irresolute drawing—want of arrangement in the drapery—false perspective—ineffective light and shade—all prove once more that the art of painting is not to be suddenly acquired.

Hong Kong, from a Painting by a Chinese Artist.—Is a respectable coloured lithograph of our late acquisition. The borders of its bay appear studded with factories and dwellings. The junk nearing the shore gives indentity to the scene.

Portrait of Major-Gen. Sir Harry Smith. Painted by Henry Moseley. Lithographed by Thomas Fairland.—Mr. Fairland has succeeded in his share of the work better than the painter.

Subjects to illustrate Sacraments, executed in Lithography.—These two sheets are obviously intended to enforce religious principles by graphic illustration. Looked on as scriptural aids, an allowance may be made for great deficiencies in them as works of Art. The intention, then, is rather here esteemed than the result. The 'Key' to these sheets is as full of symbolism and mysticism as is the character of the Art language. The idea is borrowed from our German neighbours.

Lycia. Caria. Lydia. Illustrated by Mr. George Scharf, with Descriptive Letterpress by Sir Charles Fellows.—The first part of a work illustrating the Xanthian expedition in quest of the marbles (now deposited in the British Museum), found beneath the site of the Trophitic monument—is before us. It contains general views of Xanthus itself—the theatre and tombs—Macry with the ancient theatre of Telmessus—the rock-tombs of the latter place—Tlos in the valley of the Xanthus—Myra—engravings of the casts from some of the beautifully sculptured rock-tombs now in the Museum—views of Almalee and the theatre at Patara; the latter a beautiful architectural ruin:—with descriptions from the pen of Sir Charles Fellows.

Views on the Shores of the Mediterranean. By the Hon. W. B. Devereux, Capt. R.N.—It is gratifying to observe, from time to time, gentlemen engaged in either branch of Her Majesty's service making use of those opportunities which their vocation in foreign parts affords for visiting and recording scenes renowned in history scriptural or profane. The present is a volume of lithographic prints of great interest. Among the most conspicuous may be noticed 'The Cyclopean Arch, Delos'—'The Temple of Jupiter,'—'Athens'—'Salonica and Mount Olympus'—of the classical; 'Ephesus from the Theatre of Claros'—'The View of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, with the brook Kedron, Valley of Jehoshaphat and tomb of Absalom seen in the foreground'—and the 'Convent of the Nativity, Bethlehem'—of scenes from the Old and New Testament. A view of Boodroum, the ancient Halicarnassus, is excellently sketched. Altogether, the work displays the zeal and artistic ability of Capt. Devereux.

Portrait of W. Mackenzie, Esq. From the original picture painted by T. H. Illidge, and presented to Mrs. Mackenzie by a public subscription at Paris on the 31st of December, 1846. Engraved by G. R. Ward.—Mr. Ward has succeeded in making a very good print from the whole-length of this celebrated contractor. If there be nothing new in its arrangement as a picture—if it be even tending to the commonplace in its action—it is, nevertheless, a manly representation of English character: and very ably rendered by Mr. Ward in a mezzotint which, while it is forcible and deep, is delicate in gradation and in tone.

Portrait of Thomas Campbell, Esq. Painted by T. C. Thompson, engraved by W. O. Giller.—Poets have not always been good judges of works of Art. Byron has talked much nonsense about Giorgione and others—Goldsmith declared that he knew little of Art—Johnson loved Reynolds as a man, but knew him not as an artist:—and Campbell, in writing to his friend Williams of this picture, says, "If I am not mistaken, he (Thompson) has stepped to the very zenith of his Art as a portrait painter"—"and I entreat of you, as a man of taste and a friend to Fine Art, to let the public in some way or other know what an excellent piece of Art this is." The poet has certainly added to the already numerous instances of want of *sound* appreciation of Art by great poetic writers. As a piece of mere ordinary portraiture—and clearly and well engraved in mezzotint by Mr. Giller—this is entitled to high praise; as a version of the author of 'The Pleasures of Hope' it is little satisfactory. It has every commonplace attribute of every common portrait; and wants the spirit and ideality of the Bard.

The House in which Shakspeare was Born. Drawn by J. T. Clark, engraved by T. H. Ellis.—This publication is opportune. It is a spirited etching.

FINE ART GOSSIP.—We have seen at Messrs. Paul & Dominic Colnaghi's—where it is now on view by the permission of its proprietor, Lord Ellesmere—a picture of a 'Virgin and Child' accompanied by the Saints Augustin and Boniface, painted by the celebrated German Steinle. Strongly imbued with devotional feeling—and cast as it were in the die of those times when Art was exclusively a religious ministrant—this picture, like others of the modern German school in which Steinle is so conspicuous, exhibits a strange contrast with the feeling that on the same subject of religion actuates the modern German thinker and writer. While the mind of the latter is active—indulging in wide speculation and originating and propounding the newest doctrines—the modern German painter betrays no desire and no power of originality. He lives in past ages and on pictorial traditions. His authorities—"the Fathers," so to say, of mediæval Art—supply him not only with the types and conventions of his arrangements, but with their very express form and language. Why German religious sentiment should be so diversely expressed in the several languages of the pen and pencil is a fit subject for inquiry—and has seldom suggested itself more forcibly to us than in looking at this picture by Steinle. The Virgin, seated on a throne, with the Infant in her arms, and the two Saints on each side, are arranged with all the formality and circumstance of the latter end of the fifteenth century. The design has no one particle of originality to recommend it. Devotional feeling and fervour are pronounced in the expressions of the three heads and in a certain air diffused throughout the whole. In this latter respect alone does the picture merit mention. As a piece of *mere* art it is wanting in intelligence. The extremities are poorly drawn,—and wanting in those refinements of observation and delicacies of anatomical marking for which the same masters whom the Germans copy were so renowned. The colour, either as a matter of general and harmonious arrangement or with a view to particular details, is defective. The combination is bad—and has so little local truth as to suggest the idea of its execution from a chiar-oscuro cartoon; while as a piece of handicraft the work is also unskilful. It has neither precision nor fluency of touch. From the engravings after Herr Steinle's works with which we are familiar, we were led to expect better things.

We understand that the receipts of the present year's Exhibition at the Royal Academy exceed those of the last by upwards of 500*l.*

We have received a catalogue of the first Exhibition of paintings at Hobart Town. The fact is worthy of record as illustrative of the advance of civilization—which has always found a true friend in the Arts. We observe that the Bishop of Tasmania is among the exhibitors.

A *correspondent* writes to us as follows:—"In the midst of the perpetual outcry of righteous indignation raised against the National Gallery, how is it that no one has proposed as a remedial measure the possibility of raising the building a story? Such after-thoughts, I concede, must always present difficulties hard to overcome, and at best they are poor substitutes for a competent design. But admitting the important gain in point of accommodation, may not I cite York House as an example that such a measure can be ingeniously carried through without detriment to architectural effect? My suggestion, at all events, falls in with the humour of the time;—which is to beautify London by putting new faces on old matters."

The Goodwood Cup for this year, manufactured at the establishment of Messrs. Hunt & Roskell of New Bond Street, exhibits a group of statuettes, the design for which was furnished by Mr. Frank Howard, and were themselves modelled by Mr. Alfred Brown. Design and modelling are both good; and the workmanship has not recently been excelled in its kind. The story—which represents Charles Lennox the first Duke of Richmond of the present family, serving as aide-de-camp to William III., at Namur—is well expressed;—and the contrast between the commander and the commanded—the dignity of the one and the energy of the other—makes a good point in composition. The cups manufactured by Messrs. Garrard of the Haymarket are vases designed and modelled, in the *cinque-cento* style, by Mr. Cotterell. On the cover of one is a group representing Alexander King of Scotland rescued by his servant from the attack of an enraged stag:—and on that of the other a group representing the carrying off by Castor and Pollux of the daughters of Leucippus.—All these works are excellent examples of a Taste which has ceased now to be a stranger on the racing-field.

A mere scrap or two, English and foreign, must form the meagre supplement to our Gossip on the Fine Arts this week. A medal has been struck to commemorate the Cambridge Installation; having on the obverse a head of the Prince from Ross's miniature, with an inscription—and on the reverse a view of the interior of the Senate House.—A committee of influential names has been formed for superintending the formation of the marble statue of the late Dr. Chalmers, to be executed by Mr. Steele and placed, as we have said, in the hall of the College in Edinburgh.—Lord Landsowne has given a casual recognition of the claims of Art by the appointment of a son of Mr. Severn the painter to a situation in the Council Office.—And the Roman sculptor Ambrogi's colossal statue of Pope Pius IX. was to be inaugurated on the Piazza del Popolo on the 16th inst., the anniversary of the amnesty—if the discovery of the conspiracy for a counter moral revolution have not postponed that among the other celebrations of the season.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

Last Extra Night.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—The Nobility, Subscribers, and the Public are respectfully informed that the Last Extra Night will take place on THURSDAY NEXT, August 3th, on which occasion a Grand Opera will be performed, in which the following eminent artistes will appear:—Madame Grisi, Mdlle. Alboni, Mdlle. Steffanoni, Mdlle. Corbari, Signor Mario, Signor Marini, Signor Tagliafico, Signor Rovere, and Signor Tamburini. Conductor, M. Costa. To conclude with a popular Ballet. The principal characters by Mdlle. Plunkett, Mdlle. Fanco, Mdlles. De Melisse, Deiechaux, Stephan, Duval, Cushnie, M. Mabille, M. Gontie, &c., supported by a numerous Corps de Ballet.

Tickets, Stalls, and Boxes to be obtained at the Box Office, (in the Theatre) Bow-street, and at Messrs. Cramer, Beale & Co.'s, 201, Regent-street.

The Doors will be opened at Half-past Seven, and the Performance commence at Eight o'clock.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

It is a fashion with select musicians to speak disdainfully of the Harp; as an instrument too limited in its powers to be interesting. Its harmonies are, doubtless, restricted, by the complicated mechanism required to produce change of key; but its sound is individual, beautiful—capable of great variety, and therefore, of expression; its chords are grand; its special means of effect piquant, or picturesque: and its combinations, either with wind or stringed instruments, felicitous. The great difficulty and costliness of the Harp, the ungraciousness attendant upon its study, will always prevent its popularity among amateurs,—and hence the ban under which it has laboured: since *dilettanti* are, with human self-engrossment, apt to undervalue what they cannot or *will not* take part in themselves. Our glee-singers yawn over the best instrumental quartett.—Our quartett-players are thrown into "the fidgets" by the most evenly-proportioned glee.—But no one with open ears or an open mind, who has heard Dizi, Labarre, Alvars, and Godefroid—all distinguished, yet all different—will be able to justify musical neglect of the Harp, save on the "Dr. Fell" principle. For all these reasons, we desire to offer our best thanks to Mr. Thomas for a composition in the classical form—nothing less than a *Concerto*. This is written in a sound and sensible fashion,—with due care bestowed on the intertexture of the *solo* and the accompaniment. The melodies are fairly imagined—the modulations at once more various and less crude than might be expected from a *tyro*, in a case where every modulation offers a new difficulty. The passages, too, seem to us, if not very new, well fancied; and the work, in short, to be worth a library of *fantasias*, romances or arrangements of operatic airs.

Another substantive composition, of entirely different quality, is a first *Musical Service for the Church of England*, by Charles Edward Stephens. After its kind, this has merit and some novelty: witness the treatment of the 'Responses after the Commandments.' How far the orthodox may accredit the obvious use of the triple rhythm (always tending towards frivolity) in the 'Jubilate'—how far such phrases of expression as those commencing the 'Nunc dimittis'—we leave to be settled *by* the orthodox; whose "takings and leavings" in Church Music, as set forth in their own publications, are past the power of any consistent reasoner to follow. To ourselves, the form in which Mr. Stephens uses music for devotional purposes has never been satisfactory, however sanctioned by the body of our cathedral writers. We would rather have the repeated chaunt, which is defensible as a manner of recitation, or else compositions like those of the Catholic Church, which permit, if they do not enjoin, the developement of musical ideas. Here, where phrase must succeed to phrase, and modulation to modulation, with such unbroken rapidity—the presence of science is not very easy to be proved, nor its absence to be detected. But the subject is encumbered with so many difficulties on every side, that the above must be taken as hints towards the examination of the question,—and not dogmas stated as final.

The Musical Manual: containing both the Theory and Practice of Instrumental and Vocal Music, partly by Questions and Answers, and elucidated by numerous Illustrations. By Bartholomew Fontana, Professor of Singing.—One of the myriad school-books which every season produces; and which beyond the immediate circle of the Professor who puts them together never get received as school-books at all.

The tide of cheap musical publications having fairly set in, those may stop it who can. There seems much to be done, however, ere a right direction is taken; and since, according to our standard, "cheap and inferior" is worse than "none at all," we must not be thought severe or hypercritical when looking closely into the course and form of publication, as matters of more than ordinary interest and importance.

The first part of *The Standard Lyric Drama*, announced some weeks ago, contains the commencement of Mozart's 'Le Nozze.' The size of the page is ample, the type moderately clear (admitting that the copy before us has been carelessly printed), the orchestral score sensibly and sufficiently arranged, and brought within the powers of moderate pianoforte-players. This is advisable, since *immoderate* ones can always enrich and amplify for themselves. The work, however, is threatened with one sad blemish—its English text; which is fantastic, obscure, unmusical, and, in places, unrefined. Who, for instance, whether singer or listener, can make much of the following?—in which the graceful duet, 'Via resti servita,' is *traduced*:—

Marcellina.—I pray you precede me;
Your smile is so brilliant.
Susanna.—I beg you won't heed me,
Your wit is too salient (!)
Marcellina.—No, age after beauty.
Susanna.—Nay, night before morn.
A due.—I break not from duty,
Though writhing with scorn.

We are bound to add, that specimens more absurd than the above might have been found,—especially in the recitatives. Now, there will never be good English singers so long as they have such "bad words" given them to say. The rhymes on which the old Vauxhall Ballads were set were poetry of a high order, the delivery of which flattered the musical sense, compared with this strange *per*-version of the text to Mozart's elegant and sentimental music;—which, if sung and *heard* (a matter by no means certain when such words as *brilliant* and *salient* have to be articulated), must waken laughter of a kind which the author could not have contemplated or desired. "Native talent" must not be sacrificed to native incapacity; and therefore English singers will do well to avoid the English text of the *Standard Lyric Drama* if it be carried on as it is here commenced.

Here we may speak of Wood's *Songs of Scotland* as still conducted with the same care and propriety that marked the earlier numbers of the publication. This bids fair to become the best collection, price considered, ever laid before the public.—The *Music Book*, too, goes on, though something languidly,—too little editorial care being exercised, it would seem, in admitting or rejecting contributions.—Mr. Wallace's *Siciliana* 'A lake and a fairy boat' is a graceful song of the kind which Malibran used to love to sing.—Mr. Hatton's 'I will sing of thee at morning,' is also good of its kind. Its writer seems to stand in need of that settlement of style which continuous purpose gives: but we rarely look into any of his compositions without finding traces of idea and scholarship.

Mr. Novello's cheap editions of *The Creation* and *The Messiah* are now completed: and he has commenced the publication of Handel's Dettingen 'Te Deum' and 'Judas Maccabeus' in the same clear type and inexpensive form. It would seem impossible but that the generation to come must profit by so wide a circulation of the master-pieces of music:—and "the movement," let us hopefully observe, is only just beginning.

Sacred Harmonic Society.—The last performance of the present season consisted of a new Psalm by Dr. Spohr, (not, as we had fancied, the one given at Birmingham in 1846,) his 'Christian's Prayer, and his 'Last Judgment;' all conducted by their composer. And here let us do justice to the great skill, quietness, and mastery with which Dr. Spohr conducts;—which made even the irregular forces committed to him move with more than their usual order and spirit. Partly this improvement may be ascribed to the discipline of the past six meetings of the Sacred Harmonic Society administered by Dr. Mendelssohn and himself; but something is due to the immediate impression of his influence,—and this, as all who have studied the point must be aware, is a thing of great consequence and rare occurrence. It is not every brilliant composer or sound theorist who can wield a *bâton*. The imagination which moves vivaciously enough may be hampered in its communication with others by a phlegmatic *physique* or a nervous manner; while the man skilled in chords and canons may want that life and energy—that comprehension, too, of the picturesque—which raises a performance above dull mechanical correctness. We could almost number the great European conductors on the fingers of one hand:—Dr. Spohr is among them.

Yesterday week's performance went to establish 'The Last Judgment' as it writer's most interesting sacred work,—for his new Psalm and 'The Christian's Prayer' are, alike, monotonous, cloying, and devoid of character. In the latter composition, the disregard of the text is, indeed, curious and complete. The eight paragraphs of our Lord's Prayer represent each some circumstance of life—some emotion of human desire, distinct and marked. Yet the breathing of Resignation, to the words "Thy will be done," is dismal as some funeral strain; while the supplication for Forgiveness is made one of the most cheerful movements of a lugubrious composition. There is no end, moreover, of the same modulations—and the same closes, perpetually applied, whether the strain be intended as jubilant (Spohr rarely *being* so) or pensive—whether a *solo* or a chorus. Lastly, the employment of the entire body of vocalists and the singers, separately or united, would seem to have been determined by caprice, so small is the amount of contrast or variety. Did these failures in propriety of expression and clearness of purpose—did these wondrously self-iterative mannerisms occur in some flimsy Italian opera composer, the right angry epithet would be in every classical mouth. But it requires some courage to remind the student that these offences are only the more dangerous when exhibited by one whom we have much reason to respect, and whose science in certain branches of composition is apt to lure us into overlooking his want of skill in others. As a writer for stringed instruments Dr. Spohr is admirable,—as a Symphonist, too, he shares honours with Mendelssohn; but the further we make acquaintance with his choral compositions, whether sacred or profane, the more thoroughly are we convinced that they are written on a mistaken system—or are mistakes because written *without* any system. The singers on the present occasion were Miss Birch and Miss Dolby (who have been singing their best this season), Messrs. Hobbs and Phillips.

The Directors of the Sacred Harmonic Society can hardly be at a loss as to the measures which they should pursue for the future, if they rightly appreciate the success of their past season. That they will with difficulty maintain their present prosperity unless some provision be made for their Chorus being better conducted, and for the material strengthening and better leading of their orchestra, must be as obvious to themselves as to their critics. They would do well to consider their case wisely, and provide an efficient remedy ere they resume their performances. The point is reached at which to conceal the main defects of their establishment would not so much be courtesy as acquiescence in mischief leading to decay.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—Since our last, 'I Masnadieri' has been played and sung twice. The world is unanimous with regard to this Opera: those who are the most devoted to the theatre and the composer only "letting it down easily." When it is recollected that this new work follows 'Giovanna d'Arco,' 'Alzira,' 'Attila,' 'Macbeth,'—all operas which are not found producible here—surely the question of our good (or bad) taste in rejecting *Il Maestro* as an authority is finally settled:—and the field is left open for an Italian composer.—Signor Verdi has left England.

Mdlle. Taglioni is here again for a few nights. So long as it is her pleasure to dance, so long will there be something exquisite and unparalleled for the Amateur to admire. But a reputation even as brilliant as *hers* may be trusted too far as regards the general public; the more, since she is not like the historical Mdlle. Guimard, (who danced in London when she was *sixty*, as the prop and star of a bad opera season,) nor like her contemporary, Mdlle. Elssler,—one of those Enchantresses who manage, by some magic, to keep Time's kalendar "out of mind" so long as they are "in sight" of the spectator.

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—Every one—after Judgment has "ruled the hour"—will still have his own private preference determined by personal sympathies. Thus, among the familiar stage-music of Mozart, we have always preferred the first part of 'Le Nozze di Figaro,'—have always listened with the most intense musical (if not dramatic) pleasure to its *finale*. But the Opera has not hitherto been heard to such advantage in England as at Covent Garden this year. Certain characters in it have been more strongly cast; but the whole was never given with such certainty, such ripeness, such delicacy, such spirit. For this the individual artists deserve high credit—and also the unparalleled orchestra; but the greatest praise is due to M. Costa, its Conductor, for that perfect appreciation of the author, which precludes the possibility of either indifference or exaggeration from those under his *bâton*, and keeps steady to their task the new importations from Italy, to whom the study and execution of Mozart's music must have been a strange and serious business;—not, however, without its reward. Signor Marini has not been heard to such advantage as in the *Figaro*. He may not as an actor be vivacious enough for the character, but he sings the music steadily and sensibly,—and the 'Non piu andrai' with a grandeur of voice and animation of manner such as must satisfy those even who have heard the air given by Lablache. In short, it would appear that he is neither too full-grown nor too obstinate to take pains and to make progress; and he is now in the right school—probably for the first time in his life. Signor Rovere is effective and careful as *Bartolo;* Signor Lavia a sufficient *Basilio*, though we could have dispensed with the *aria* 'In quegl' anni' in the second part.* Mdlle. Steffanoni deserves credit for her firm but not mechanical execution of the music in the *Countess's* part. Her voice tells well in the concerted pieces; and her singing in 'Dove sono,' and 'Sull' aria,' is expressive and delicately finished. Mdlle. Alboni is a capital *Cherubino*. We have never had 'Voi che sapete' so beautifully given—without change or trill, simple as it came from its master's hand, and yet not bald; so full of variety are the inflexions of her voice, and so true is her musical expression. She acts, too, with delightful heartiness. *Susanna* and the *Count* are older favourites. Madame Grisi is more effective than formerly in the part; since she now sings with full voice what she used to whisper. More successful than heretofore, whether in his singing or his acting, Signor Tamburini could not be; but in neither point has he lost. 'Le Nozze' draws crowds; and its execution, so many *encores* as to remind us of the time when the entire Opera was repeated by royal command and the "particular desire" of the performers themselves.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—A note from Gloucester mentions that the Musical Festival will take place on the 21st of September and three following days; and that 'Elijah' will be one of the chief attractions.

After having made ourselves merry with the deliciously fine language of The Cremorne Poet, it would be unfair to our friends on the other side of the Channel, and might tend to encourage the idea that we English are monopolists of all manner of magnificence, were we to withhold a parallel specimen; which, of its kind, is still richer than anything Chelsea can show! This is the advertisement of the "Château de Fleurs,"—an "institution" created to meet the two great wants of the French People, "music and bouquets"—otherwise the newest public garden in *Les Champs Elysées*. Here are to be found pistol shooting for Ladies (!) by Henri—Ices by Blanche—the Melodies of Schubert and Bengal Lights. The establishment "being especially dedicated to the use of *families*," continues the *programme*, "children are to be let in gratis." The need of such a Paradise, add the projectors, cannot be doubted: unless Paris is to be allowed to remain behind other capitals. In London, they say, "Lords in silk stockings and ladies in full ball dress may be seen sitting on the grass in the Vauxhall and Surrey Gardens"—and why should not the *beau monde* of the French metropolis have its haunts as luxurious and refined? Verily, it would seem as if we English are to become the pleasure-loving nation of Europe—when such a notorious fact as the above is solemnly cited by way of precedent.

The tragical story of Charlotte Corday has been just represented at the *Théâtre de la Gymnase*, Paris; with Mdlle. Rose Chéri for heroine. The lady, however, if we are to believe M. Janin, has not been equal to herself or to the part—though the drama is pronounced by him to be a bad one of a bad school. —We perceive that the return to Paris of M. Berlioz is announced; as likewise the probable appearance at the Grand Opera of Miss Birch in place of Madame Dorus-Gras—the engagement of M. Roger—the re-engagement of Mdlle. Dameron. With regard to these matters, every journal has its "own particular" rumour; and the confusion of facts and possibilities is such as to make the Wise be sure alone of the things which *have* happened.

* This qualification may seem so entirely at variance with our often-expressed anxiety for the Composer's text entire and unaltered, as to demand explanation. Let it be recollected, that Mozart was no rigorous planner and completer of a whole which he *would have* executed, after the fashion of Beethoven. Like Handel, even when the Oratorio in hand was an 'Israel,' he willingly propitiated his artists; taking a pride—as Mr. Holmes points out in his Biography—"in suiting a singer with an air, as a tailor would fit him with a coat": and, thus, it is past doubt, introduced and added many pieces to make the duty of the time palatable to those engaged in it. Hence, supplementary songs, such as some of those in 'Don Giovanni,'—such as the beautiful *scena* 'Al desio,' in the 'Figaro,' written for some *Contessa* whose voice was a *mezzo soprano*—hence, airs of pretension for the inferior characters which of themselves have small interest. Thus, let the purists say what they will, it is well nigh as impossible to perform all the music to some of Mozart's operas as it would be to play 'Romeo and Juliet' with *both* balcony scenes—supposing that Shakspeare had written a second one to suit a particular *Kynaston!* There *must* always be discretionary power with the Conductor on such occasions; who will use it sparingly, in proportion as he is experienced—sure of being sharply taken to task for the slightest omission or commission, whether warranted by the Author's known usages or not. On the present occasion, we are very sorry that Madame Grisi avails herself of precedent to omit the delicious *aria* 'Deh vieni, non tardar' at the opening of the last *finale*.

MISCELLANEA

Paris Academy of Sciences.—July 19.—M. Pelouze communicated a paper by M. Sobrero on what he calls mannite nitrique; viz., the substance called mannite obtained from manna, honey, &c., and treated by nitric acid. The mannite nitrique, or fulminating mannite, explodes under the blow of the hammer with the same violence as fulminating mercury, and produces in its decomposition sufficient heat to ignite gunpowder. M. Sobrero states that he has prepared capsules in which, instead of fulminating mercury, he placed a little nitric mannite crystallized in alcohol, and discharged a fowling-piece with them several times with the same certainty as with the ordinary capsules.—M. Pelouze next gave an account furnished by MM. A. Strecker and G. Gundelach of a series of experiments made on the bile of pigs; from which they deduce that this secretion of nature is a compound of salts of potass, soda, and ammonia, and of an acid, and that it is in its character saponaccous.—A communication was received from Dr. Plouviez, of Lille, on the use of common salt as a powerful modifier of the blood.—The Academy received from the Minister of War the copy of a report from M. Hardy, the director of the government nursery at Algiers, on the production of cochineal.—A communication was received from M. Pallas to the effect that the greater number of nervous affections are occasioned by the excessive influence of atmospheric or terrestrial electricity. He states, that by adapting to bedsteads glass feet, and isolating them about 18 inches from the wall of the apartment, he has cured the patients sleeping upon them of a host of nervous affections.

Temple of the Sun at Baalbec.—Crosse Hall, near Leeds, July 23.—A very absurd paragraph has been going the round of the papers—viz., that the Temple of the Sun at Baalbec has been destroyed under the directions of Solyman Pasha, by order of his master the Viceroy: and to give the climax of absurdity, some prints indulge in a little bit of sentiment about "*the land of the Pharaohs*." Solyman Pasha is in the service of Mohammed Ali; and since the capture of Acre by the late governor of Greenwich Hospital, the Viceroy has had nothing to do with the erection of barracks in Lebanon. It is, I think, pretty clear that the Pasha of Egypt has been obliterating one more temple on the banks of the Nile for the sake of the materials. I was at Baalbec in 1840 and 1842; and there were then sufficient detached masses of masonry lying around the temple to build half a dozen Turkish erections. So that, allowing that barracks have been lately constructed at Baalbec, the destruction of the Naos and Portal would be extremely improbable. As for the re-erection of the unrivalled Portal, it is constructed on such a scale and with such gigantic blocks that supposing it were in the power of any Pasha to pull it down without blasting—which I utterly deny—all the followers of Islam together could not replace the stones in their original form.—I am, &c.,

WILLIAM TIPPING.

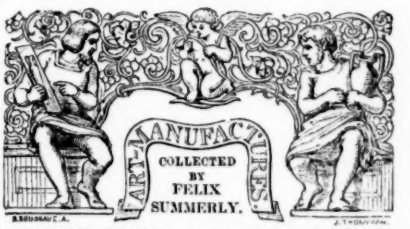
P.S.—May I suggest to the originator of this paragraph the propriety of spending an hour at some Sunday-school, in order to learn not to confound Cœlo-Syria with the land of the Pharaohs.

Visitors to the British Museum, Tower, and National Gallery.—A parliamentary return, just issued, shows that 825,901 persons visited the British Museum during the year 1846. Of these 750,601 inspected the general collections, 66,784 studied in the library, 4,126 visited the sculpture gallery, and 4,390 the print-room:—52,287 went over the Tower.—The number of visitors to the National Gallery during the year 1846 was 608,140.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—C. F. C.—J. R.—J. A. B.—received.

Erratum.—P. 794, col. 2, l. 27, for "Cotton," read *Colton*.

WEDDING AND BIRTHDAY PRESENTS.



FRANCESCO FRANCIA was a Goldsmith as well as a Painter. Designs for crockery are attributed to Raffaelle. Leonardo da Vinci invented necklaces. In the Gallery of Buckingham Palace is a Painting by Teniers to ornament a harpsicord; and in the National Gallery there is one by Nicolo Poussin for a similar purpose. Holbein designed brooches and saltcellars. Albert Durer himself sculptured ornaments of all kinds. At Windsor is ironwork by Quintin Matsys. Benvenuto Angelico, and a host of great Artists, decorated books; and, in fact, there was scarcely a great mediæval Artist, when Art was really Catholic, who did not essay to decorate the objects of everyday life. Beauty of form and colour and poetic invention were associated with every thing. So it ought still to be, and we will say, shall be again.

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